

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Senate Passes Agnos Bill

Faces Final Assembly Test; Deukmejian Non-Committal on AB 87

by Ray O'Loughlin

The California Senate passed by a bare majority Jan. 7, AB 87, the comprehensive AIDS bill authored by former Assemblyman Art Agnos. Agnos got his legislation through on its second try and the day before he left the legislature to become mayor of San Francisco. The final 21-13 vote was strictly along partisan lines with no Republicans voting to support the measure that in part upholds the civil rights of people with AIDS.

The bill now goes back to the Assembly for a concurring vote on minor changes and amendments. Assembly Speaker Willie Brown has taken up the legislation now that Agnos is no longer in the Assembly. Proponents of AB 87 expected a battle in the Assembly this week although they expected the bill to pass.

The bill has three main components:

- It creates a 15-member state commission on AIDS. The commission would include, by law, a gay representative. Members are to be appointed by the governor and the legislature. The panel will co-ordinate the activities of all state agencies on the AIDS epidemic.

- The bill declares the legislature's support for the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission's ruling last year that AIDS is a handicap and is therefore covered by state law prohibiting discrimination against the handicapped in housing and employment.

- The bill loosens the requirement on the confidentiality of some medical records regarding AIDS. A blanket consent form will now be sufficient for medical care givers to share the HIV test results of one person.

INFORMED CONSENT

The last segment of the bill has been seen by some as weakening California's strict confidentiality law on AIDS medical records and HIV test results.

But according to Agnos spokesperson Scott Shafer, AB 87 may in fact strengthen the law. "I don't think it weakens the protections for confidentiality," said Shafer. "The bill spells out what informed consent actually means, which has never been done before."

Stan Hadden, an aide to Sen. David Roberti of Los Angeles, agreed. "I don't feel it was that controversial," he said, regarding the revised confidentiality law. "It loosens up some strict" (Continued on page 2)



The Agnos inauguration featured the biggest flag west of Sacramento

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Today

Peace Treaty: The Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club has new officers and the three gay Demo political parties have signed a truce. See the stories on page 16.

Just Say No: Gay demonstrators converged on a local armed forces recruitment center to protest aid to the Contras. Dennis McMillan has the story on page 20.

State Plan Set To KO LaRouche

Organizing Pro-Active Ballot Measure; Not To Be As Costly As 'No On 64'

by Jay Newquist

More than 100 gay and lesbian activists from throughout California came out swinging last weekend to flatten the second LaRouche-inspired AIDS quarantine initiative. They urged support for a gay pro-active AIDS initiative of their own that may be destined for the November 1988 ballot.

The organizing conference began its work on the basis of five assumptions, most learned from the successful campaign against the first LaRouche Initiative in 1986.

- One statewide organization should be formed to conduct the entire campaign.

- Primary campaign responsibility should be at the local level with county-based organizations.

The statewide group should facilitate coordination and communication between county groups.

- Highest priority should be given to placing a pro-active measure on the June ballot through the legislature if possible, but through a signature campaign if necessary for the November ballot.

(Continued on page 2)

Call For Voluntary Testing Applauded By AIDS Activists

Concern for Confidentiality, Anonymity of HIV Test But Most Say There is Medical Value in Test

by Paul Reed

The days when the gay community and its leaders considered the AIDS-antibody test to be of suspect value now seem to be behind us. While stressing the importance of confidentiality, gay leaders are now speaking out in favor of taking the test—both as a result of their own beliefs and as a response to the recent call by Project Inform for voluntary testing.

All gay men and others at risk for AIDS have been urged to take the AIDS-antibody test voluntarily by Project Inform, the San Francisco-based AIDS organization which is an informational clearinghouse on AIDS treatment.

Local gay and lesbian community leaders are, for the most part, in agreement with Project Inform's position. Of the leaders contacted by Bay Area Reporter, all were fully aware of the urgent nature of AIDS infection as well as the medical and diagnostic value of the antibody test. Nearly all were equally vocal about protecting the anonymity and confidentiality of the test and

agreed it should be an individual decision, voluntarily made.

"Taking the test is an affirmation of responsibility for taking care of one's health," said San Francisco Sup. Harry Britt. "It's a wonderful thing when people can confront their seropositivity and move beyond it to dealing with their health," said Britt. "But for the person who's not

psychologically ready, I wouldn't urge them to take the test. If the fear is something you can't confront, I respect that."

Britt fundamentally agreed with Project Inform's position, saying, "Any important part of what Project Inform is saying is that taking the test, where confidentiality is assured, can be a step towards better health."

(Continued on page 15)



Jean Harris, Harry Britt, and Dick Pabich outside the second AIDS Initiative Conference (Photo: S. Savage)

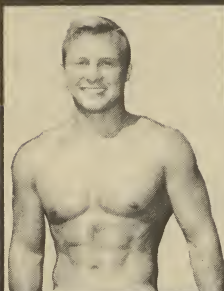
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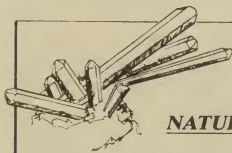
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LaRouche

(Continued from page 1)

• Raising campaign funds on the scale of the No on 64 campaign is probably impossible and not necessary to defeat LaRouche again.

• The message to voters should be positive, continuing the theme of the No on 64 effort that opposition to LaRouche will do the most to control the AIDS epidemic.

At the conference held at San Francisco's Women's Building, the representatives of major gay and lesbian AIDS interest groups called for passage of a second AIDS tax credit measure in the Assembly that could raise \$100 million a year for AIDS service organizations.

"We've been on the defensive for too long," said conference participant Ken McPherson, who felt the gay community had to carry the ball for a change.

The first AIDS tax legislation authored by Assemblyman Johan Klehs, was passed unanimously in the California Legislature last year, but Gov. George Deukmejian vetoed it. The Assembly and Senate must pass the proposal by a two-thirds vote to place a constitutional amendment on the June ballot. The legislature must act on ACA 8 by Jan. 28. If it is again vetoed, however, the newly-formed statewide federation of AIDS-related groups plans to seek 500,000 signatures to qualify it for the November ballot.

The legislation would mean, in effect, some 55 percent taken off the bottom of a tax bill to be applied to state spending on AIDS services and research.

"The people of California want to do something about AIDS—even if it's passing a negative initiative. We have to take a positive position for a change," McPherson said, indicating the need for a new focus on treatment.

Another source of immediate action was civil disobedience, which will kick off with the March on Sacramento on May 7.

McPherson said the gay com-



Steve Morin and Mark Cloutier confer at the second AIDS Initiative Conference (Photo: Rink)

munity did not have the resources or the time to raise the \$2.5 million it gathered for the successful No on 64 campaign in 1986. He said the consensus was for a drastically lower amount to be used more effectively than the last time.

McPherson described the federation as an umbrella group composed of autonomous smaller organizations in all regions of California. These so-called cells were the matrix of combatants against Prop. 64.

The gay and lesbian initiative is an appeal to the conscience of California voters to support treatment of people with AIDS as well as AIDS research. The humanistic approach is a targeting against three main homophobic AIDS ballot measures: the LaRouche Initiative, the Doolittle-Dannemeyer Initiative, and one by L.A. Sheriff Block and State Sen. Ed Davis.

Pat Norman and Eric Rofes facilitated the opening Saturday session of the federation meeting and the group will meet quarterly to deal with various AIDS issues. The federation will next convene on Feb. 21-22 in Los Angeles at the same time as a civil disobedience conference.

The attendees will be briefed on the results of the San Francisco meeting since many from Los Angeles were unable to attend the first meeting because they attended the memorial service for

millionaire gay civil rights activist Sheldon Andelson.

Ken McPherson stressed that individual gay and lesbian activists were welcome to join the federation whether they were or were not represented by a group.

Dick Pabich, a primary organizer of the battle against Prop. 64, facilitated the Sunday session where the AIDS initiative agenda was discussed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The main strategies were the gay-sponsored AIDS initiative; fiscal conservatism for use of funds to combat LaRouche; and pressure on the governor to approve ACA 8, which is sponsored by State Controller Gray Davis and Assemblyman Johan Klehs.

Other sessions of the federation are scheduled for March 26-27 in Orange County; Aug. 6-7 in Sacramento; and Oct. 8-9-10 in San Diego.

Meanwhile Lyndon LaRouche was reported recently to say that he expects his second AIDS initiative to pass in California because of the relative ease and speed that his acolytes obtained 700,000 signatures to qualify it for the ballot.

LaRouche dismissed AIDS as a "political-economic issue" and said that people with AIDS be placed in sanatoriums or be restricted to their homes.

A candidate for President for the fourth time, LaRouche is awaiting trial on a federal charge of obstructing justice. ●

AB 87

(Continued from page 1)

disclosure language so that the health care team can share information without additional authorizations. It could be that 70 to 100 people in a hospital

could need to see the medical record."

HIV test results are also required to be kept in a separate part of an individual's medical record.

Shafer said that Agnos was disappointed that no Republican

senator voted for AB 87. In the Assembly, Bill Filante (R-Marin) supports the bill. Shafer said he hoped other Republicans would join him. Forty-one votes are needed for passage in the Assembly.

During debate in the Senate on Jan. 7, Sen. John Doolittle (R-Folsom) spoke against the bill, claiming that if restaurant workers with AIDS could not be fired, the public would be placed at risk.

"Doolittle and his gang will try to get in the way of progress," said Shafer, "and AB 87 is a lightning rod for these people." Shafer said he expected "a full court press" to stop the bill in the Assembly. "But I don't think they'll be successful."

Robert's aide Hadden said, "There will be a real concerted effort by Republicans to stop the bill in the Assembly and then to get Gov. Deukmejian to veto it."

But Shafer was cautiously optimistic that the bill would make it past both hurdles. "The governor's office is not making any promises but they have been helpful with the bill. He [Deukmejian] has not said he'll veto it," said Shafer.

If AB 87 becomes law it will not go into effect until Jan. 1, 1989 along with most legislation enacted during this session of the legislature. In order to enact a law sooner, a two-thirds majority is required for passage. ●



Stan Hadden

(Photo: Rink)

Not Fred and Ginger . . . Yet!

Gay, Lesbian Couples Face The Music And Dance On Wednesdays

by Jay Newquist

It isn't exactly Fred and Ginger, but they're hoofing up a storm in the old Sears Building where ballroom dancing lessons for lesbians and gay men happen each Wednesday night.

Stathis Stratis, who bills himself as a dance educator, started teaching his ballroom dance class last August when he realized he wanted to dance with a man as his partner.

The former gardener and waiter on the graveyard shift at Zims said his specialty was jazz dance, but he liked to play the field. "I enjoy the opportunity to be creative and use my body. It's great therapy and it's fun."

"Dance builds up your self-esteem," he said.

Stratis described an explosion of interest in ballroom dance in the U.S., especially Latin steps, and he credits films such as *La Bamba* with the resurrection of the mambo. Other movies such as *Flashdance* and *Dirty Dancing* have brought nuclear intensity to the dance floor.

Studio #204 holds 20 couples in the Sears Building for each instruction session of one-and-a-half hours every week at a cost of \$4 dollars for drop-ins or \$12 per month. Another half hour is devoted to free dancing, and once the couples decide who leads and who follows, it's a snap.

Stratis explained that his lesbian students are more committed to learning ballroom dance than gay men, whom he scolded for attending once or twice, then disappearing.

"I think we need more hot men to take lessons to make the class more exciting," Stratis said with mischief. He wants a bigger crowd enrollment to bring more spice to the merengue and rumba.

If couples are taking lessons, Stratis also encourages them to dance with other people at least part of the time. "You learn faster when you practice with a stranger," Stratis dances, too, when there is an extra body.

A Boston-born graduate of Massachusetts College of Art and S.F. State with two BFA degrees, Stratis arrived in San Francisco in 1975 "to find an easy way to 'come out.'"

"My love for dance was calling me here. I sort of lost touch with it, but now I've created a new social environment for myself."

SWEATY WORKOUTS

Stratis scrapes by on the meager proceeds from his free-lance dance instruction and his other activities include instruction of pre-schoolers at various Montessori schools, Pacifica Park and Rec, the Carol Beals School of Dance, and his special love—Greek folk dancing.

He danced in the San Francisco Ethnic Folk Dance Festival in 1986, but for his own dancing he describes himself as a semi-pro. "I'm not a professional dancer, I'm a teacher. Of course I love to perform when the opportunity comes, but there's no money in it."

"I can lift my leg to my nose, but not to my chest."

Stratis said he gives his ballroom dance students a good

sweaty workout and perspiration was allowed. The dancers wear shorts and soft shoes when they sashay across the wooden studio floor. It makes for good aerobic exercise.

At present Stratis said ballroom dance courses at local colleges were thriving and over-booked, and he hoped his own enterprise would soon benefit from a transfusion of more clients.

He has taught some 50 students since last summer and the number is slowly growing as word of Stratis' talent reverberate in the local gay and lesbian community.

Ballroom Dance for lesbians and gay men is held at 3435 Army St. (at Valencia) in Studio #204. For more information, call Stratis at 995-4962.



Stathis Stratos gives a young man a hand

(Photo: S. Savage)

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Job Rights Suit Goes To Trial

Could Establish Protection From Bias; Expands Ruling To Private Firms

by Ray O'Loughlin

The first lawsuit that would extend the prohibition of anti-gay employment discrimination to all private employers in California is set to go to trial this week in San Francisco Superior Court. The case of *Adams v. Sohio* could result in gay people being protected from employment discrimination under California's Labor Code.

Section 1101 of the state Labor Code makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of political activity. In the landmark ruling in *Gay Law Students v. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph*, the California Supreme Court decided that the act of coming out of the closet as a gay or lesbian person was a political act. As such, gays and lesbians out of the closet merited protection under the freedom of speech doctrine. But that case extended coverage only to employ-

ees of publicly supported or regulated organizations.

"If we win, lawsuits like this can be brought all over California and not just in areas where local ordinances ban job discrimination," said attorney Alan French. French is representing Terry Adams and Paul Edmonds in the suit.

French said that not only would this extend job protections

statewide, a court victory would actually institute stronger protections than would have been achieved under A.B. 1. A.B. 1 was the California job rights bill that was vetoed by Gov. George Deukmejian in 1984.

"The potential for punitive damages is greater under the Labor Code than under A.B. 1," said French. Like most discrimination laws, A.B. 1 had no provision for punitive awards, according to French, but only for reinstatement and back pay if discrimination were proven.

Labor Code Section 1101, said French, "is an old law to protect political affiliation in the workplace. It doesn't protect gay people per se. It protects the right to be out of the closet, the right to hold a minority point of view."

CRY BABIES

The case stems from a series of incidents in 1982 involving gay employees and a straight supervisor at the giant oil company, Sohio (Standard Oil of Ohio). When Terry Adams, a supervisor at Sohio, attempted to promote a number of gay men who were word processors, her department manager threatened her with a salary loss. The manager told her that gay men were "nothing but a bunch of cry-babies." When she persisted in just being friends with gay employees anyway, she was fired.

Paul Edmonds was one of the men who used to work at Sohio. When he learned he would not be promoted because of his sexual orientation, he became despondent, stopped working for a year, and even attempted suicide.

Originally, the case involved six plaintiffs, said French. Others reached settlement or were dismissed.

Sohio closed its San Francisco offices in 1985, moving some functions to Houston and others to corporate headquarters in Cleveland.

French said he and his clients were taking a risk with the suit—they could be held liable for Sohio's legal costs if they lose. But, he said, "there's a principle at stake."

"Since 1979, we have had laws on the books protecting gay people. But there's never been a trial and a verdict to enforce those laws," said French. This is the first attempt to use the *Gay Law Students* case victory to expand protections.

According to French, the case has all the usual difficulties of a discrimination case plus the added difficulty of proving a pattern of anti-gay discrimination. "Straight people trivialize incidents of gay discrimination or don't even remember them," he said. "Anti-gay discrimination is usually overlooked which makes it difficult to find witnesses," he added.

Cable Firm Donates Funds to GGBA Fndtn

by Jay Newquist

The GGBA Foundation is the recipient of a \$7,675 installment grant from Bay CableVision to fund AIDS education and support services. The funding comes from Bay Cablevision subscribers in its service areas of Richmond, El Cerrito, Berkeley and Hercules. The GGBA Foundation will in turn direct its financial support to gay and lesbian groups in that geographical region, including nonprofit organizations.

"We're excited by the scope of the contributions, many people donating small amounts," said Foundation spokesman Douglas Jackson. "We have been looking for ways to reach into the nine Bay Area counties, and this grant is tailor-made for us."

"These contributions show that everyone is a part of the fight to beat AIDS," Jackson said.

The GGBA Foundation also expects to receive added funds based on Bay CableVision's last appeal for donations via public service announcements in December.

The grant, possibly the first ever of its kind by a cable operator, is the first installment for the establishment of a Bay CableVision Trust for AIDS education, research, and service. The unique feature of the Trust is that it allows subscribers in the Bay CableVision service areas of Richmond, El Cerrito, Berkeley, and Hercules who have been diagnosed with AIDS to apply for financial assistance. Particularly

welcome are applications from women and minorities.

More than \$120,000 has been donated to gay and lesbian groups in Northern California by the Foundation since 1981, notably some 100 organizations in seven areas of interest: advocacy and civil rights, AIDS, arts and culture, education, health, human services, and lesbian and feminist services.

In its most recent grant cycle, the Foundation gave \$1,500 apiece to the Gay Rescue Mission, Lesbian Health Conference Committee and Instituto Familiar de la Raza, among five others.

Bay CableVision, a member of the Lenfest Cable Group, also raised some \$3,000 last May for the Mayor's Fund for the Homeless in Berkeley. The company was also cited for the second year for its Toys for Tots Campaign with the U.S. Marines.

The GGBA Foundation is located at 604 Mission, #306, and may be reached at 546-5226. ●

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Shanti Awarded \$5 K By S.F. Foundation

by Jay Newquist

Shanti Project will be awarded \$5,000 tonight by the San Francisco Foundation for its dedication to support services for more than 6,000 people with AIDS and their loved ones. At festivities in the Galleria Design Center at Showplace Square, the Shanti family will gather to receive the formal John R. May Award for 1987 for organizational initiative.

Shanti is a co-recipient with the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, the first time two organizations have been honored in a single year.

"Each group has demonstrated tremendous dedication to addressing a critical contemporary problem," said Adele Corvin, chairman of the Awards Committee, who spoke last week.

Shanti serves 85 percent of people with AIDS in San Francisco and has over 600 volunteers who provide emotional support as well as practical support to make everyday obstacles to PWAs less intimidating.

Jim Geary, executive director of Shanti, will accept the award for the nonprofit support service organization that has rapidly become a worldwide model.

"I have shared the joys and tears of hundreds of Shanti volunteers who willingly chose to suspend judgment and become intimately involved with people who are essentially strangers," Geary said recently.

"I have witnessed the comfort and peace that volunteers bring to grief-stricken and splintered families, ostracized loved ones, and those who are frightened and alone," he said.

Other Shanti services include an information and referral program; a residence program providing long-term, low-cost housing to people with AIDS; and a counseling program at San Francisco General Hospital for AIDS



Jim Geary (Photo: T. Plewik)

patients, their families, friends and lovers.

Shanti shifted its focus in 1984 from psychosocial support services to all people facing life-threatening diseases to focus on people diagnosed with AIDS as the epidemic spread.

The award ceremonies will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. tonight at Showplace Square, 101 Henry Adams St. The San Francisco Foundation is urging a big turnout to honor Shanti and the Bay Area Crisis Nursery.

The John R. May Award was established in 1975 to maintain the values of creative leadership fostered by the Foundation's first executive director. Nominations for this award and other community service awards are sought from the community at large. ●

Vacaville Inmates Blast Medical Care

They Claim They're Treated 'Like Lepers,'
File Lawsuit Against The Prison

by Gregory Douthwaite

Prisoners at Vacaville Medical Facility charged in a lawsuit last week that the lives of AIDS patients and other inmates are threatened by the "atrocious" medical care at the state prison hospital.

AIDS patients are segregated and treated like "lepers," according to the suit filed in federal district court in Sacramento on Jan. 6.

"The atrocious medical care is a symptom of the overcrowding," said Donald Specter, an attorney for the Prison Law Office at San Quentin, which filed the lawsuit along with the American Civil Liberties Union and two of San Francisco's largest law firms.

Vacaville is the largest prison in the nation. Designed for 4,730 inmates, it now holds 8,035. Of these, 140 men with AIDS, ARC, and HIV infection are crammed into the "AIDS Wing," which is even more crowded than the rest of the hospital.

"As bad as conditions are in general, in the AIDS Wing it's even worse," said Matt Coles, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union.

The lawsuit charges that overcrowding and understaffing have created conditions which "fall beneath the standards of human decency." Medical and psychiatric care are substandard and unconstitutional under the eighth amendment, which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishment," Coles said.

Overcrowding has caused most of the prison to be double-celled, and the AIDS Wing always is, Coles said. Cells designed for one now hold two, and cells for two now hold four, he said.

"What was a Spartan situation has become unbelievable," he said. "There is no floor space, only room for the beds and to get out," he said.

Because prison officials can't deal with so many inmates, lockdowns are frequent, and prisoners are kept locked in their cells most of the day, he said.

'NO ACCESS'

In the AIDS Wing, access to medical care is even worse, Coles said. Whereas on the "main line," sick call is made every day, on the AIDS Wing it is only once a week, he said. AIDS patients, some acutely ill, must sign up on Thursday to see a doctor on Tuesday, he said.

Prisoners on the AIDS Wing have no access to prison work programs, almost no access to the exercise yard, and little access to their families, the law library and educational programs, the lawsuit charges.

The lawsuit also charges that food is unsanitary, nutrition is poor, and the noise level is "intolerable." On the AIDS Wing, lighting is poor and ventilation is inadequate; conditions are so bad that inmates "may be more likely to develop the disease," according to the lawsuit.

The most dangerous prisoners are housed with low security prisoners on the AIDS Wing, creating the potential for violence, the lawsuit alleges.

Department of Corrections spokesman Bob Gore defended the AIDS segregation policy, saying it was for the inmates' "own protection, for efficiency of treatment, and to prevent spread of the disease." He also claimed that prisoners with AIDS had better access to medical care than most inmates.



San Quentin Prison.

(Photo: Rink)

Cable Car Awards Set For Feb. 27

"Outstanding" is the theme for the 1988 Cable Car Awards and Show on Saturday evening, Feb. 27, at the Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannon at 8th St.

Awards will be presented in numerous categories for the lesbian and gay community, including Fundraising, Journalism, Visual Arts, Men and Women in Sports, and in Theatre and Entertainment, along with presentations of the awards for the 1987 Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade. Special Board of Directors Awards will also be presented to individuals and organizations as well as the prestigious Harvey Milk and Dorothy Langston Awards.

Once again City Swing, conducted by Jim Murdock, will provide entertainment and music throughout the evening along with Holly Near, Sam Gray, Scott Johnson, the Mixed Chorus, and the South Bay Stompers, to name just a few.

Tickets go on sale Saturday,

Feb. 1, at all Headlines stores located at Polk at Sutter, Castro at 18th Street, and Market at Powell, and are priced at \$50 for grand tier, \$30 for orchestra, \$25 for dress circle, \$20 loge 1, and \$15 for loge 2 with unreserved standing room only priced at \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Emperor and Empress Campaign

The Board of Trustees of the Imperial Family announced the Official Slate of Candidates for Emperor and Empress 1988.

They are as follows:

EMPEROR CANDIDATES

Stanley Boyd
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Steven Rasher

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The candidates will be presented to the public at a gala presentation this Saturday, January 16th at the California Club, Clay and Van Ness at 7:00 p.m.

GGBA Foundation Gives \$8,750 In Grants

The Golden Gate Business Association Foundation made grants totaling \$8,750 to eight organizations serving the lesbian and gay community of the Bay Area. In its Fall 1987 granting cycle, the Foundation awarded:

- Lesbian Health Conference Committee, \$1,500, to produce a series of forums on various aspects of lesbian health;

- Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Inc., \$1,500, to fund the salary of a receptionist trained to give AIDS information and make referrals;

- Women's Cancer Resource Center, \$1,500, to support panels on women and cancer, and health-related legal and insurance issues facing lesbians;

- Gay Rescue Mission, \$1,500, to underwrite start-up costs of a new community center on Folsom Street;

- AIDS Day Care Service Centers, Inc., \$1,000, to develop a comprehensive business plan for the Center;

- San Francisco Suicide Prevention, \$750, to fund a conference on youth populations at high risk for suicide;

- Godfather Service Fund,

- \$500, to extend to additional San Francisco hospitals its service of providing personal "care packages" to AIDS and ARC patients; and

- San Jose Spurs, \$500, as seed money for organizational costs.

Founded in 1980 by the Golden Gate Business Association, the GGBA Foundation is the oldest and largest lesbian and gay philanthropic organization in the country. To date, the Foundation has awarded some \$125,000 to 118 organizations.

The GGBA Foundation has funds available to support programs serving Bay Area lesbian and gay seniors. Organizations providing programs and services for this population are encouraged to contact the Foundation's office at 500 Sutter St., #703, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 956-8679, for information and grant applications.

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January 22

FABULOUS FRIDAY

6:15 pm

"All you can eat" Pasta Dinner — \$5.

7:30 pm

Spiritual Celebration with Gospel Music by LEOLA JILES (one of the most exciting new stars shooting across our horizon!)

January 23

SENSATIONAL SATURDAY

3:00 pm

Women's Reception with Freda Smith and her lifemate Kathleen — All women invited!

6:15 pm

Mexican Dinner (Meat & Vegetarian)
"All you can eat" — \$5.

7:30 pm

Spiritual Celebration with the RIVER CITY MCC GOSPEL CHOIR

January 24

SUPER SUNDAY

12:30 pm

Spiritual Celebration with Surprise Musical Guests

Meals at 152 Church Street
Spiritual Celebrations at 48 Belcher Street

golden gate

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BAY AREA REPORTER OPEN FORUM

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Keep Clinics Open

San Francisco has long been upheld as the leader for developing responses to the AIDS epidemic. This city is generally, and rightly, regarded as a model for local government services to the needs of this crisis. As a result, we have an array of services public, private and joint efforts between government agencies and private organizations to provide for people with AIDS. Because of that concern and that innovative spirit, the costs of AIDS here have actually been kept well below the national average.

That model is now threatened by the decision of the city's Department of Health to cut back clinic hours for AIDS clinic at Health Center 1. If anything, the city should invest additional funds for neighborhood health services.

It may not seem like much to cut down clinic hours. But the move has serious consequences both in terms of additional suffering to those with AIDS and in terms of the impact on other city health services.

Planners for the Health Department estimate that 1200 patient visits per year will be cut. That means longer waits for appointments at the clinic. That in turn means less regular medical care for people with AIDS. And when problems appear that cannot wait for treatment, that will mean an even greater burden on San Francisco General Hospital's Ward 86, Ward 5, and the Emergency Room. That's an expensive way to deliver medical care.

The secret behind San Francisco's success in keeping AIDS treatment costs down is that hospital care is kept to a minimum. A number of years ago, former Mayor Dianne Feinstein was heavily criticized for cutting back on community health clinics and letting the city's health care system rest on overworked General Hospital clinics. Now, with a new neighborhood-oriented administration in City Hall, hopefully that mistake won't be repeated.

Cutting back on AIDS clinic hours at Health Center 1 hurts the people most in need of health care and least able to withstand cuts. Many people with AIDS cannot travel across town to SFGH.

Given all the inconveniences, many will simply not get needed and

reasonable care. That lets problems develop until they require massive and expensive care in the hospital. To resort to Emergency Rooms to handle routine problems is a very costly way to provide services that could be provided more efficiently, more humanely and more cheaply in a neighborhood clinic. It's worth the additional funds to maintain the clinics.

Having a Great Time

The San Francisco Chronicle gave us a little Christmas present in mid-December. They wanted to remind us, as they do so well every now and then, that gay people are still worth no more than a good laugh. The great minds of the Chronicle printed a letter from two tourists from Canton, Ohio.

They said that they were having a great time, that S.F. "has gotten a bum rap" and there is "very little evidence of all these weird things" people say about San Francisco. Why, they hadn't "even seen one gay person the entire trip."

I would like to know why the two Cantonites are so sure they hadn't seen even one gay person. What were they expecting—pink triangles on our foreheads? Maybe they simply had their blinders on. If they didn't see any gay people here, they didn't see much of San Francisco.

But tourists will be tourists and there is no accounting for them. My real problem is with the Chronicle for having the excruciatingly bad taste to print such a letter. Just switch some terms around. What if the letter had boasted of how relieved they were that they had seen no blacks, Chinese, Hispanics, Filipinos, Jews? I would be willing to bet that the Chronicle would never have considered publishing such a letter. It would have been offensive.

But it is not offensive to ridicule gay people. The Chronicle's innocuous little joke adds fuel to the fire of anti-gay bigotry that often comes out as assaults on gay people. Violence-prone homophobes don't require much prodding to commit their crimes.

Are we being too sensitive? Perhaps. But it isn't that we can't take a joke. It's just that our lives, our safety, and our dignity are no joke to us.

OPINION

Murder by Neglect

by Kenneth Wolff

I want to "second" what Dan Barber said in his Dec. 24 letter regarding the bureaucratic nightmare that people with AIDS must go through to get their rightful Social Security benefits. There is the strongest need to scream at those in government to demand simplification of the procedure and shorten the waiting time to receive benefits.

But hell, let's be real here, there will be thousands more dead by the time Reagan/Bush/Meece are kicked out and their policy of murder by neglect is reversed. Sick people, no *all* people, must know that Reagan's so-called safety net is an illusion, but also all of us must know what our real options are.

Dan urges people to write to protest the Social Security policies, but only those who have gone through or witnessed the process can truly know what it is like. I will attempt to summarize what I've learned in the last two years since my partner became disabled.

What follows doesn't apply only to people with AIDS or ARC. It covers anyone with any disabling disease or condition. To limit our thinking just to "people with AIDS" is one-tracked. There are many dying from horrible ARC complications that are still not recognized by our beloved government as disabling.

That said, here's one person's advice: No one can depend on getting Social Security benefits because he or she is sick or disabled. The paperwork, rigamarole, and bureaucratic nightmares of just the initial application forms are so complex and overwhelming that I doubt 10 percent of perfectly healthy people can get through just this initial step. And that is only step one of a three step process. Almost 100 percent of all initial applications are rejected. After first rejection, you have to fill out appeal forms. The vast percentage of appeals are also rejected. Then you apply for a judicial hearing. Fortunately, a decent percentage of people who actually drag themselves this far are finally awarded the benefits they deserved in the first place. Not too bad, you may be saying.

But wait, here's the fun part. It could take more than two years to finally get your butt into that hearing room before the judge—that's two years of no benefits. It took over eight months for my partner to receive just his initial rejection letter (which I read to him as he lay flat on his back, exhausted in bed "... and thus we see no reason why you cannot work a productive eight hour day standing on your feet ...").

So Social Security benefits are a minimum of one to two years away. What to do to eat? First, when you become disabled, you should apply

immediately for state disability. Fortunately, state disability isn't as mired in the Reagan Dark Ages as Social Security. You don't have to be on your deathbed to collect. A genuinely disabled person will start getting benefits several weeks after application and can collect for up to one year. Do not wait for that year to lapse before applying for Social Security. Apply for it while on state disability and get the ball rolling as soon as possible.

A must read for anyone applying for Social Security is a paperback called "Social Security Disability Benefits—How to Get Them! How To Keep Them!" by James Ross (published by Ross Publications, 188 Forrester Road, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania 16057). Ross used to work for Social Security and provides every detail of what they look for to get accepted. This book is invaluable.

If the stress of applying for Social Security is too great (and if you're sick, it's practically insurmountable), there are decent attorneys out there who will help you on a contingency basis. Contingency means that you pay no hourly fees, but the attorney will collect a set percentage of the final back-pay benefits you receive when you finally win them.

So let's say you've been receiving your state disability checks, but now they've run out and Social Security has you in limbo-land. How to eat? Most people will then go on general assistance—about \$300 per month plus food stamps. Great. So now you've been on welfare for six months and let's say your Social Security wheel of fortune finally hits big—you actually get a hearing and are accepted as disabled. Social Security will then pay you benefits from the date your state benefits ran out.

Well, hot damn! A big fat check!! Down, girl, not quite. When you signed up with general assistance, you signed a lien on these benefits. You see, G.A. is simply a "loan," so G.A. will take the first bite out of your settlement. And looky there, there stands your lawyer, mopping up the rest of the crumbs.

Now that all that's off my chest, here is some advice:

If you are sick and disabled: 1) apply immediately for state disability; 2) buy that paperback, read it cover to cover, then; 3) apply for Social Security as soon as you can with the support of a good friend or lawyer or both; 4) hold on to any private medical insurance until MediCal kicks in; 5) wait, take care of yourself, wait some more, relax, wait, curse your government, wait some more.

If you are healthy:

1) if you've got \$25 or so to spare each month, invest in a private disability policy immediately; 2) hold onto your medical insurance for dear life; 3) help a friend get the benefits he deserves—he'll need a ton of help and support; 4) stay healthy.

Frameline Presents

★ I read with interest the article on *Electric City* in a recent B.A.R. I greatly appreciate your support for lesbian and gay video programming in the city, but would like to point out one factual error, namely the statement that *Electric City* is the only lesbian and gay program currently available in San Francisco.

As your readers likely know from the kindly listings in your calendar section, *Frameline Presents* screens every other Thursday at 8 p.m. on Viacom Cable Channel 25 in San Francisco. Our Spring 1988 season begins tonight with Act One of *P.A.N.I.C. in Griffith Park*, a play about life in California had Proposition 64 passed. Our December shows featured coverage of the October March on Washington, including the unveiling of the AIDS quilt, the lesbian and gay wedding, civil disobedience at the Supreme Court, concerts by gay choruses from around the country and speeches by Pat Norman, Harry Britt, Whoopi Goldberg and Cesar Chavez.

In 1987 alone, *Frameline Presents* screened 50 different works by lesbian and gay artists of all political and racial backgrounds. I have enclosed a copy of the program schedule from January, 1987 through March, 1988 to familiarize you with the consistently fine programming we offer the community.

And thanks for all your support over the years. The calendar listings really are helpful because our viewers sometimes have trouble keeping track of us because we're not on every week.

Daniel Mangin
Producer, *Frameline Presents*
San Francisco

Boycott The Chron

★ Aren't newspapers interesting?

On Dec. 28 The Chronicle runs a doom and gloom article by Randy Shilts on their front page. (Thank you B.A.R. for your editorial on that unwarranted stab in the back by our resident "gay" reporter.) The following Saturday (Jan. 2) The Chronicle runs another article by Mr. Shilts. This one—on the putative lesbian/gay militancy regarding AIDS as a conservative's political football—is run as an opinion column on their editorial page, Saturday being a day when The Chronicle's readership is lower than on weekdays. The message is clear: The Chronicle enjoys undermining the lesbian/gay community, and Mr. Shilts, currently enjoying the profits from a very problematical book, dances to his employer's tune.

Maybe it's time to boycott The Chronicle. That won't hurt their pocketbook, perhaps, since The Chronicle and The Examiner (much better on all local news) share the profits, but a short, snappy boycott will let The Chronicle know that we are alive and kicking.

Finally, when is Wayne Friday going to stop sniping at Art Agnos? If nothing else, the sniping is a bloody bore.

John D. Dolan
San Francisco

Stop Vaughn Walker

★ This letter was sent to Sen. Joseph Biden, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Dear Sen. Biden:

I am writing to you as well as to other members of the Judiciary Committee to urge you as strongly as I can to prevent the confirmation of Vaughn R. Walker as judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

To understand why I feel so strongly about this nomination it is necessary to know a little about a man named Tom Waddell. Tom was a physician, a father, a former Olympic athlete and medalist and a gay man. Several years ago, he and some other people conceived the idea of holding athletic games, open to athletes from around the world, to be known as the Gay Olympics. The name was chosen to encourage the participation of lesbians and gay men, to break some stereotypes, and to provide a competitive arena where sexual preference would not be an issue.

The United States Olympic Committee, which has permitted without objection the use of the name Olympics by virtually any group that wished to do so, was sufficiently outraged by the idea of the Gay Olympics that it went to court to stop the use of the name. Ultimately, Tom and his supporters lost the battle over the name in a 5-4 United States Supreme Court decision that provoked vigorous dissents, including one by Justice O'Connor and, earlier in the Court of Appeals, by Judge Kozinski, both Reagan appointees. During the course of the litigation, Tom Waddell was diagnosed with AIDS and has since died. Despite Tom's illness, the Olympic Committee continued to maintain an attachment on the house that Tom, who was by no means a rich man, was leaving to his young daughter.

Vaughn Walker represented the Olympic Committee. His recommendation by Sen. Pete Wilson and nomination by the Reagan administration (with the enthusiastic approval of the Meese Justice Department) is a gesture of contempt for the feelings of a great many Americans who consider Tom Waddell a hero. Comparisons are never entirely accurate, but I can only imagine that Walker's nomination is to the lesbian and gay community throughout the country what the nomination of Sheriff "Bull" Connor to the federal court in Alabama would have been in the Sixties. Walker, like Connor, could say that he was just a hired gun.

I urge you as strongly as I can to prevent the confirmation of Vaughn Walker.

John Ward
San Francisco

King Is Our Hero, Too

★ It is crucially important that gay men and women pause on each Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to recall the debt they owe to the Civil Rights Movement.

This April will mark the 20th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination in Memphis. Unfortunately, his assassination has wrapped him into pious sainthood. The earthy King, far from perfect in real life has been separated, in death, from his profound anger with institutional racism, which is still imbedded in the fabric of American society.

Many contemporary Americans, including gay men and women, have nodded to King's memory instead of rededicating their souls to King's relevancy for Americans; namely, his search for a just society in the United States and throughout the world.

Far too often, it seems to me (and I may be wrong), we in the gay community have overly ghettoized ourselves. We have partially lost the insight of all the struggles for social justice, which were led by blacks, feminists, American Indians and other gays. This is also true of other movements, such as the struggles for AIDS research, for preventive AIDS public education and for compassionate medical care and social support for persons with AIDS or ARC.

We gay men and women should never forget that it was through the vehicle of the Civil Rights Movement that the Gay Liberation Movement finally emerged out of its deep hidden shadows into visibility as a not-to-be-denied struggle for social justice. King is our hero, too.

James F. Gibbons
San Leandro

ED. NOTE: You are correct about the relevancy of Dr. King's life and beliefs in conjunction with our movement. But it wouldn't be fair to the gay and lesbian movement to say that we have had a "ghetto mentality" when it comes to AIDS research or education and compassionate care and social support for persons with AIDS and ARC. Thankfully, we have had many friends on our side from the heterosexual world. We have worked for those friendships.

Will Snyder

Vicious Attack

The following was sent to the United States Olympic Committee's California State Olympic Organization in Los Angeles:

★ Included in our bank checking and savings statements, we received inserts asking for donations of our hard-earned dollars to support the United States Olympic Committee, in its effort to send worthy athletes to compete in the 1988 Olympics.

Although we support the concept of Olympics, and the international understanding it forsters, we cannot support the Olympic Committee itself. We, as gay men, find your recent court action to deny our community use of the word "Olympic" in our effort to foster international brotherhood and health as incomprehensible and beyond understanding.

Especially with the current AIDS epidemic, we gay Americans need the love and support of such established sources of international brotherhood more than ever. Your vicious attack on our rights, by pointedly singling out the Gay Olympics in restricting use of "your" word "Olympics," is undeniably inhumane. The United States Supreme Court may have granted you exclusive use of the word, but popular public opinion is still a force to be reckoned with.

It is because of your actions that we submit this complaint. We do not wish to cancel our account, but will give them an opportunity to clarify their position on gay rights and on the Olympic question.

Michael Zone-Kiraly
Christopher Eugene Smith
Novato, CA



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Jan. 18: 7:00 pm - AIDS Healing Service

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A Safe Sex Workshop

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to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

LETTERS

Not Enough Evidence?

★ This letter was sent to John G. Healy, Executive Director, Amnesty International, USA, 322 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10117-0389:

Dear Mr. Healy,

I am writing to inform you that I will be unable to join Amnesty International as you requested, due to your organization's position on homosexual rights. I greatly respect the work that you and your organization perform in the area of human rights. Amnesty International is at the forefront of the struggle for human liberation in many political spheres in many parts of the world. But the failure to recognize the struggle for homosexual rights as a political struggle can only be seen as implicit support of powers that invade the privacy of all citizens.

I won't insult you by reminding you of past mass imprisonments and executions of homosexuals. Surprisingly, the situation is little better today. Homosexuals in many parts of the world are persecuted for merely socializing with one another, even in the absence of political activity. And more subtly, homosexuals suffer from the mass indoctrination of all society that denies them self-respect and self-expression, internally torturing them through the repression of emotions.

Homosexuality is clearly a political threat from the point of view of powers that depend on the suppression of individual volition. If you are uncertain of the extent to which the rights of homosexuals are violated, be introspective and think of the anti-homosexual sentiments you yourself have felt or experienced. Everyone, including homosexuals, has had those feelings.

If Amnesty International does not feel that there is evidence enough to indicate that the rights of homosexuals are being violated, then perhaps this is a sign that more investigation is needed. Please maintain files on homosexual rights.

Paul Mores
San Francisco

One Big Tree

★ The Eureka Valley Merchants Association is pleased to announce that the Castro Street Christmas Tree project in association with the Names Project received \$1,775 over expenses to benefit the Names Project.

Our thanks to all who assisted with the tree, but particular thanks is given to John Keene, who coordinated the project entirely, Joel Redensek, Bob Smith and Dan Ferguson for the gift of the tree, Fred Wallace of One Big Man, One Big Truck and Hertz-Penske for transportation, Ernie Asten of Cliff's Variety, Bob Badeau of All That Jazz, Quick and Easy, Bakers of Paris, Bella from Castro Street Flowers, Hibernia Bank, Christopher Electric for electrical inspection and installation, Sausage Factory for electricity, Dolores Bishop for the angel, Betsy Berberian of Neon Madness for the neon star and Billy Platte for installing it, CUAV for monitoring, SFPD for traffic control, and finally the Gay Men's Chorus, the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps, and the Flag Corps for entertainment.

We thank the merchants of the area and members of the public who gave time and money so unselfishly to beautify our neighborhood for Christmas in celebration of the lives of loved ones.

J. D. Larson, President
Eureka Valley Merchants Asso.

Hooperman Not Hip

This letter was sent to The Producer, Hooperman, Adam Productions, c/o ABC Television, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York City 10019:

★ On your Christmas show, you once again pandered to straight prejudices in presenting gay characters.

I missed the first ten minutes of the program, so I don't know why the gay man was wandering around the police station on Christmas eve. Maybe he was new in town and hadn't made any friends. But why, if he was so new at the gay scene, didn't your gay cop suggest that he go to a church service? In San Francisco, for God's sake, the Metropolitan Community Church or the Episcopal Cathedral would have been overflowing with gay communicants who could have offered a hug and a holiday greeting if nothing else. Or why, when the phone call to the parents didn't satisfy (a bad idea, which your cop should have known, but one always hopes), didn't the cop tell the guy that when natural families prove unsupportive, you have to put together your own family out of friends and lovers? Yes, it's nice when mummy and daddy think you're wonderful, but you're a big boy now: it's your life and you're in charge. They need you worse than you need them.

But no—you presented the Righteous Right view. Gays are always outsiders. They are sad and alone. Everybody dumps on them. To which you add the Liberal admonition: Pity the poor misfits. Tolerate them, for they are miserable enough as they are.

This is not good enough. You get no marks for acknowledging that gay people exist if you constantly seek to placate those who wish they didn't by stereotyping their personal lives. It's a throwback to the times when blacks were shown only as servants and clowns—and a black man never touched a white woman. If your gay cop cannot in San Francisco have friends, associates, opinions (gay ones, not ones written by the censor's office to assure everyone that you are not promoting homosexuality), then he is doing us more harm than good. Kill him off and let Hooperman shed a few of his patented many tears over the poor unfortunate. (You could replace the character with a married woman who feels guilty because she has to work and neglect her children. That would give you lots of opportunities for heartrending speeches to massage the sensibilities of those who use "family" as a justification for hating and attacking others.)

J. M. Matthew
Jersey City, NJ

SF's The Greatest

★ I have been living here in San Francisco for the past seven months arriving from Los Angeles for a change in my life. I am returning to Los Angeles on Sunday, but before I go I wanted to let you know something about your "special" city.

Everyone in LA believes that SF is a very depressing place to be right now, what with all the sickness and sadness from AIDS. I have been involved in AIDS services for the past six years as organizer of the National Candlelight Marches on May 26 to Co-founder of the LA Shanti Foundation.

The only reason I am leaving is because I got a great job as Health Educator for the City of West Hollywood. I love your city and have found it not only not depressing, or sad, but exciting and overflowing with people ready to open their hearts and homes to make you feel welcome.

The men here are the best. There is no pretense or game playing, just a straight forward hello and this is where I am coming from. It is so refreshing to meet people on such an honest level, and I am going to miss this wonderful, loving city. I will be back!

San Francisco, nobody has anything on you, nobody, or no city! Be well.

Daniel Warner
San Francisco

Aunt Mary Shilts

★ Once again, Randy Shilts with his new book *And the Band Played On* has proven he is the Aunt Mary of gay society. Much like the Uncle Tom's of black society, who do everything to be accepted and are not.

He writes in a fashion that Jerry Falwell or Pat Robertson would be proud of. He gives the straight community what they want to hear and not the truth.

As a PWA (person with AIDS), I myself, am infuriated by this book. It makes gay people look like rabid, inflicted disease carriers who can't wait to give AIDS to someone else. He, himself, has admitted that perhaps he got a little carried away with Patient Zero.

I encourage everyone in the gay community to steal this book and burn it. Although, it will probably win a Pulitzer Prize, I, for one think it is anti-gay, closeted, and an example of Randy Shilts' Aunt-Mary attitude.

Jerry A. Lazier
San Francisco

Anti-Human Being

★ This is a reply to the Dec. 17 letter opposing animal research for AIDS. Given the massive human problems of disease, famine and war, the writer demonstrates a badly distorted set of values. I support any research, including on animals, that competent and concerned doctors believe might end the suffering of AIDS as quickly as possible or save the life of even one baby. Preventing use of this valuable tool could cause uncountable human deaths that might otherwise be avoided. To suggest that all research be done only on PWAs instead of animals, is contemptible. It may not be anti-gay, but it surely is anti-human being.

Jim Handler
San Francisco

LETTERS

Point . . .

This letter was sent to Mr. John Wilson in response to a letter he had sent to Newsweek:

★ Dear Mr. Wilson:

Like you, many people have written to deplore Newsweek's failure to report the Oct. 11 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and the planned civil disobedience that followed—so many, in fact, that we felt this point of view deserved representation in our letters column (The Mail, Nov. 16). We hope that by now you've seen the letter we published.

We do want you to know, however, that in omitting the story we weren't willfully ignoring what was indeed a newsworthy event, but simply responding to a dilemma peculiar to newswriters: what to do with Sunday stories. Newsweek goes to press late Saturday night; the march took place on Sunday. We could not, therefore, have reported on it until the following week—and by then it would already have been fully covered by other media. (We faced the same dilemma, incidentally, in connection with the World Series, since the outcome was decided on a Sunday; we passed on that story as well, to the dismay of numerous readers.)

In conclusion, we are sorry to have disappointed you, and we hope you will reconsider your decision to cancel your subscription. If not, simply let us know, and we will cancel it as of the date you first wrote.

Bill Christophersen for the Editors
Newsweek, 444 Madison Avenue
New York, NY

. . . Counterpoint

★ Dear Mr. Christophersen and editors:

Thank you for your response to my letter deploring your non-coverage of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, which occurred on October 11, 1987, and was attended by between 200,000 and 800,000 people from all over the country, and was highlighted by the appearance of Jesse Jackson, and which featured the unveiling of the Names Project memorial quilt.

You ask in your letter that I reconsider my decision to cancel my subscription. Well, I have. I still want to cancel. I will not, however, "simply let you know," as you suggest. My reasons for giving up Newsweek after 17 years of faithful readership are not simple. They are important, and I want you to understand. You don't really have to care, but you must understand.

I bought every daily newspaper I could find in the airports on the Monday after the march. Your claim that what I saw there was "full coverage" is ludicrous. Beyond that, however, I wonder what the point of your effort really is. The other media offer such "full coverage" on a daily basis all the time. If your mission is to call attention only to what is not "fully covered," then your magazine might as well take Saturday off along with Sunday and Monday. Nancy Reagan's cancer surgery was covered exhaustively in the daily press. This didn't prevent you from devoting a few inches to the event. Had the surgery occurred on a Sunday, would you have ignored that too? The PTL scandal made your cover, and nearly every issue after. You even managed to find room for Fawn Hall's banana. The news of half-a-million queers in Washington pales by comparison.

I am convinced that Newsweek is drowning in sluff. Your claim to depth has become a sad joke, and I am sorely disappointed in the deterioration. Now that you have AIDS you don't feel the need to address the distasteful subject of equal rights for lesbians and gay men who are not sick. It's quite obvious you have grown complacent, content to re-hash the work of the daily press in a willfully selective manner. Your dissembling letter is a transparent attempt to gloss over this problem, but it won't work with me.

I was interviewed on the quilt that Sunday by a reporter for the Washington Post. She asked me, "Why are you here?" I answered, "because I'm tired of being ignored." It's true: I am very, very tired of being ignored. It perpetuates ignorance, which perpetuates fear, which perpetuates injustice.

The quilt would have made a beautiful color cover. The world has never seen anything like it. Even a little "xl" picture inside would have gone into more depth than most newspapers. The single letter you printed on Nov. 16 asked a question: "What happened?" You didn't deign to answer in print, but the letter you sent to me says it all:

"If it happened on Sunday, don't look for it in Newsweek."

I won't.

John Wilson
San Francisco

Samuel Delany, Where Are You?

★ I am writing you on behalf of The Gaylaxians, a central New England group for gay people and their friends who are interested in science fiction and fantasy, and the Gaylactic Network, an international organization with a similar membership.

In the past few months, there have been charges made by some members of the gay community that the books of science fiction author Samuel R. Delany, as well as authors Tanith Lee and Barbara Hamby, are being blacklisted by Waldenbooks and B. Dalton, two of the largest booksellers in the United States. The reason given by those making the charges is the works of these writers are being censored because of the homosexual or general sexual content of their writings.

The Gaylaxians and the Gaylactic Network contacted both Waldenbooks and B. Dalton for comments on these charges and for written statements on this matter. Both Waldenbooks and B. Dalton responded to these inquiries. Terri Curiloi of Waldenbooks replied that the company wanted "to emphasize the fact that Waldenbooks does not blacklist, censor, nor eliminate publications due to questionable subject matter, or for any other reason. . . ." She further went on to say that "Dhalgren and Stars In My Pocket by Samuel Delany [are] included on our list of suggested titles." Mary Lilja of B. Dalton answered by writing, "there is absolutely no fact to any of these allegations" and that "all these authors' works are represented in our standard backlist assortments." Furthermore, Jeffrey Capshaw, a buyer for B. Dalton, wrote to say, "I have no idea who the source of this misinformation is, but it could not be further from the truth. There is no agenda hidden or obvious to censor the work of any author for any reason."

On behalf of The Galaxians and the Gaylactic Network, I wrote to Samuel Delany requesting a statement on this situation, since Delany's latest book, *The Bridge of Lost Desire*, seems to be at the center of most of the charges of censorship. Mr. Delany has not responded.

The possibility of censorship by two major book chains is a very serious matter. However, The Gaylaxians and the Network have seen no evidence to support these allegations in the three months it has been looking into this. Both Waldenbooks and B. Dalton completely deny these charges and our members continue to find these authors' books in their stores. Until there is proof otherwise, there is no reason to doubt these booksellers. If evidence is presented that these companies are practicing blacklisting, both The Gaylaxians and the Network will take action to inform both the science fiction and the gay communities of such unjust policies. It would, however, be equally unjust for anyone to take any type of action against Waldenbooks or B. Dalton at this time only to learn later the charges against them were false.

The Gaylaxians and the Gaylactic Network again request Samuel Delany to make a public statement about the events which lead to these charges being made and, once and for all, to clarify for all those involved, the facts in this matter. We feel Mr. Delany has a responsibility to both the science fiction and gay communities to do this as soon as possible.

It is important for gay people and those who support them to stand together against those who would harm us. It is equally important for us not to attack as enemies those who may be our friends.

Franklin Hummel
The Gaylaxians
Boston, MA

Fight Back

★ As many as four AIDS propositions may be decided by California voters in 1988. LaRouche supporters have qualified a re-run of Prop 64 for the June ballot. Congressman Dannemeyer and Sheriff Block have proposed dangerous initiatives on AIDS testing for the November ballot. And an effort is underway to place a pro-active AIDS tax credit measure on the ballot, either by the legislature for the June ballot or by the initiative process for the November ballot.

Needless to say, these measures present a major challenge to the communities affected by the AIDS epidemic.

To begin planning the statewide strategy on the initiatives, a meeting has been called for Sunday, Jan. 10, in San Francisco. I hope that you can participate.

We hope to come out of this meeting with an organization capable of waging a coordinated, year-long campaign. We need your help!

The meeting on Jan. 10 will be at 10 a.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St. (near Valencia). Please feel free to invite along anyone you feel would be helpful in our efforts.

Dick Pabich
San Francisco



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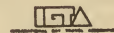
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Agnos Brings Social Work to City Hall

Mayor Art Agnos told his inaugural audience last week that "at the heart of our vision is a refusal to let San Francisco become an expensive enclave that locks out the middle class, working families and the poor." He assumes leadership of a city that has a projected deficit of nearly \$80 million. Those close to the new mayor insist that Agnos means it when he makes his populist pledge not to let this city become (stay?) a city only for the rich. Agnos, the former social worker, likes to tell reporters that he came to this city some 20 years ago with only \$500.

He left no doubt that his would be an administration tailored to affordable housing, the protection of small businesses and the neighborhoods. Agnos' inaugural speech promised too that under his leadership, this city could make a greater effort to fight AIDS and promised that he would work to "end the indecency of homelessness." In a city where over 2,500 have died from the disease, Mayor Agnos said that the fight against AIDS will be measured not just in medicine and health care, "but in our genuine caring for one another."

Even Art Agnos' political enemies—despite his lopsided election victory, he does have them—seemed ready to give the new mayor a hand. **Sup. John Molinari**, whom Agnos handily defeated to become San Francisco's mayor, attended the swearing-in ceremony at City Hall, but passed on the huge inaugural party later that evening, saying "this is Art's day, and I wish him well."

Speaking of cleansing the soul, get this for the political quote of the week: "If I am elected, I won't be the first adulterer in the White House"



Willie Brown and his escort at the Agnos inauguration (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

(candidate Gary Hart, speaking to the Des Moines Register).

California Schools Supt. Bill Honig has apparently decided to seek the Demo gubernatorial nomination and is reportedly putting together an organization.

In the city, Republicans think they can finally get one of their own back on the Board if lawyer **Harriet Ross** runs for supervisor this year.

Mass. Sen. Ted Kennedy, eulogizing Sheldon Andelson during

memorial services in L.A. Sunday told mourners that "discrimination based on sexual orientation is as intolerable as discrimination based on race, or gender or religious belief."

The last piece of legislation that Art Agnos got through the legislature before becoming mayor was AB 87, the bill that creates a state commission to coordinate, for the first time, the state's programs responding to the pandemic of AIDS. The Agnos bill would bring California into line with the initiative taken by the national administration

where President Reagan created a national AIDS commission. Though, predictably, most Sacramento Republicans oppose this important legislation, there is hopeful optimism that **Gov. George Deukmejian** will sign it.

U.S. Senate candidate **Bill Press** if expected to endorse **Roberta Achtenberg** for the 16th Assembly District seat.

Speaker Willie Brown is taking a lot of heat from some of the state's Jewish leaders for his involvement in **Jesse Jackson's** presidential campaign. Most of these leaders perceive Jackson as being anti-Semitic and L.A. Assemblyman **Tom Bane**, a top lieutenant to the Speaker wrote Brown a letter expressing the Jewish community's criticism of his accepting the national chairmanship of Jackson's campaign.

Anita Bryant making a comeback? The anti-gay former beauty queen has just put out a new album and is scheduled to host the religious 700 Club television show starting next month (eat your heart out, Tammy!!)

The Democrats hold their nominating convention in Atlanta July 18-21 and the GOP meets in New Orleans Aug. 15-18.

California GOP Chair Robert Naylor, a former Assemblyman from Menlo Park, has quickly attacked the new LaRouche AIDS ballot initiative which will be on the June ballot. Naylor says the new LaRouche scheme, similar to the one rejected as Prop. 64 is "an instant replay that deserves instant rejection."

How deep is the split between **Sen. Alan Cranston** and the state's gay and lesbian community? He is being accused of lack of leadership on the AIDS crisis, and recently voted for the Helms-Dannemeyer amendment on federal funding of AIDS literature. It can now be told that when a scheduled "roast" of Cranston

in which all six Democratic presidential candidates were to appear, was cancelled last month, it was done not because of reported "scheduling conflicts," but because dinner organizers were worried that a planned demonstration by some 400 gays and lesbians against Cranston would embarrass the California senator and the Democratic party.



Don Lungren

Some Sacramento Democrats are trying to build a case against State Treasurer-designate **Dan Lungren**, but they are having trouble finding ammunition against the conservative Congressman and he will be confirmed easily.

A number of gay and lesbian activists in Los Angeles are reported lining up behind the expected candidacy of Councilman **Zev Yaroslavsky** who will run against Mayor **Tom Bradley** next year.

There will soon be an announcement that one of the networks will do a four-hour telethon in early summer hosted by **Elizabeth Taylor** and singer **Madonna** in which \$30 million will hopefully be raised for AIDS research.

Ron Braithwaite elected president of the Toklas Democrats Monday night, replaces long-time activist **Roberto Esteves**.

Mecham, Walker Big Concerns For Gay Republicans

CRIR to Meet Jan. 18

Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights (CRIR) will hold a meeting on Monday, Jan. 18. The group will vote on a resolution to name Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham, a Republican, "The Least Valuable Player."

Mecham faces a recall vote in Arizona and has characterized his opponents as dissident Democrats and homosexuals. Jan. 18 is Martin Luther King Day, which Mecham discontinued in Arizona when he took office.

CRIR endorsed the King National Holiday in 1980.

Brian Mavrogeorge, CRIR president, encouraged the club to pass the resolution so there is no doubt in Mecham's mind, or anyone else's, that gay Republicans in San Francisco support the recall effort.

The meeting will be held at The German Oak Restaurant, 2257 Market St., at 6:30 p.m. The group will also discuss "Vaughn Walker and the Judicial Appointment Process." Walker, reportedly a member of the California Re-

publican Party is an attorney who represented the United States Olympic Committee in its successful court battle to deny the Gay Games from using the word "Olympic." Walker recently was nominated by Pres. Ronald Reagan to a U.S. District Judge.

T. J. Anthony of the Feminist Men's Alliance will speak, along with others. Admission is one can of foodstuffs for the S.F. AIDS Foodbank.

For further information, contact Ron Kershaw, Vice President and Program Chairman at 641-0791.

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Law Threatens to Crush UK Gay Movement

LONDON—Sweeping legislation passed the British House of Commons Dec. 15 that could result in the removal of gay-related books from public libraries in England and Wales and crush gay rights efforts in the United Kingdom.

By a 309 to 205 vote, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government pushed through a bill that forbids local governmental bodies from doing anything to "promote" homosexuality.

That means that local governments, counties, and school boards would be prevented from enacting gay rights measures or "publishing any material for the promotion of homosexuality." Schools would not be able to teach anything promoting "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship."

Also banned in the legislation would be public funds for any organization that promotes gay causes or even for an individual who says that homosexuality is acceptable, possibly including gay teachers.

Gay youth groups, 15 of which are funded by the London school board, also face loss of support. Gay books could be required to be removed from public library shelves and gay plays could even be banned from publicly funded theaters.

"Under the pretense of curbing the promotion of homosexuality, this is actually the most massive attack on civil rights and civil liberties ever launched by an elected government on any group

in this country," said Graham Stringer, leader of the Manchester City Council.

While the bill was being debated, over 100 pro-gay spectators protested in Parliament's gallery so vigorously that the chamber had to be cleared so the legislation could be acted upon.

A number of Labour members of Parliament protested the bill. "This is unalloyed fascism, the beginning of a very nasty and insidious movement," said Tony Banks.

When openly gay MP Chris Smith told of the recent arson that did \$36,000 in damage to the newspaper Capital Gay, he was greeted with giggles and shouts of support for the arsonists. "I am quite prepared to say that intolerance of evil is a good thing," said one Conservative MP.

Although homosexuality is not illegal in Britain, it is illegal to "procure the means to homosexual relations." Police have been raiding gay bars and discos and police reports indicate that gay bashing has substantially increased in recent years. It is feared that the new law would give police additional authority for raids.

But the bill has received scant attention in the British media. While most ignored the proposal, Rupert Murdoch's The Sun headlined "Screaming Gays Bring Commons To A Halt." The story barely mentioned the legislation, however.

It now goes before the House of Lords where passage is expected.

—The Advocate

Kennedy Nomination Rebuked At Hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force criticized other liberal organizations for failing to vigorously oppose the nomination of Judge Anthony Kennedy to the U.S. Supreme Court. Jeff Levi, NGLTF director, testified Dec. 16 against Kennedy's nomination. Levi was the only representative of the lesbian and gay community to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Levi noted that "Judge Kennedy has over the last decade, repeatedly ruled to deny gays equality under the law." Levi

cited three Kennedy decisions which have failed to recognize gay and lesbian rights: a decision upholding the U.S. Navy's policy of discharging gay service members, a decision supporting the government's policy of firing gay federal employees, and a decision upholding the biased immigration policy which denies gay/lesbian relationships the same status accorded heterosexual relationships.

Commenting on the lack of mainstream liberal opposition to the Kennedy nomination, Levi noted "The failure of our political allies to see beyond their nar-

row issue-oriented interests is extremely discouraging. NGLTF and our community would never support a racist or sexist nominee, but many groups seem willing to allow a judge whose anti-gay decisions have hurt thousands of gay people to be elevated to our nation's highest court."

The National Organization for Women, the National Women's Political Caucus, the Americans for Democratic Action and the NOW Legal Defense & Education Fund joined the Task Force in the panel of witnesses opposing the nomination.

UNQUOTE

"In a different and better America, he might well have held one of the highest elective offices for he had a quality that compelled people—that made them listen to him, learn from him, whatever the battle, whatever the enemy, however long the odds."

—Sen. Edward Kennedy

"I met him by his involvement with virtually every good cause. He was courageous and effective... a community

on Sheldon Andelson

leader who came out the closet."

—Sen. Alan Cranston

"With me he always stressed image. Sheldon would always say, 'What's it look like? What do the polls say? Can't you fix up your image?'"

"I think his great goal in life was to become chief of protocol at the White House."

—Former California Gov. Jerry Brown

Education Slows AIDS Spread

AMSTERDAM—The spread of AIDS has been slowing in the Netherlands, and the government attributes the slowdown to its information campaign, reports Associated Press.

Since last Jan. 1, the number of reported AIDS cases has almost doubled from 218 to approximately 430, but the Dutch National Coordination Committee on AIDS had expected that by Oct. 31. Of those, 223 persons have died of the disease, according to figures in the Dutch press.

Among gay men, who make up more than 90 percent of all Dutch AIDS cases, infection with the disease "is clearly falling as a result of changes in [sexual] behavior," Van Wijngaarden said.

Denmark Grants Rights To Couples

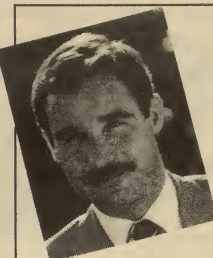
COPENHAGEN—Gay couples in Denmark will enjoy the same social and legal rights as heterosexual couples from June 1 of this year, under a bill introduced in Parliament by the opposition Social Democratic Party on Dec. 22.

However gays will still not be able to marry in either church or civil ceremonies, nor adopt children.

If the bill becomes law—as is expected, since it has majority backing in the parliament—Denmark's estimated 20,000 male and female same-sex couples will receive equal rights in taxation, social welfare allowances, inheritance and mutual support.

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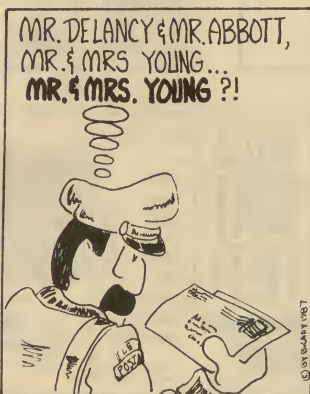
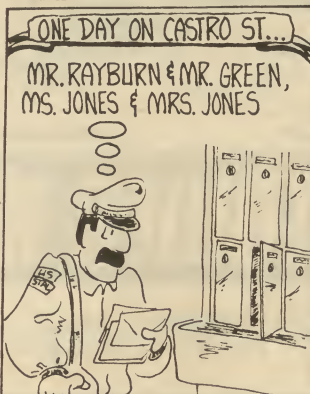
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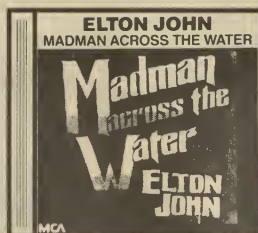
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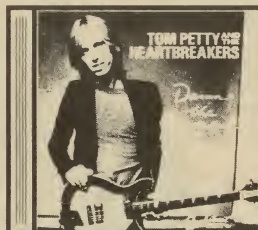
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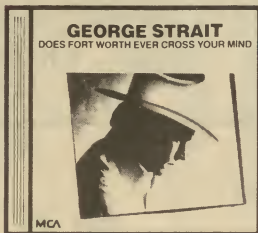
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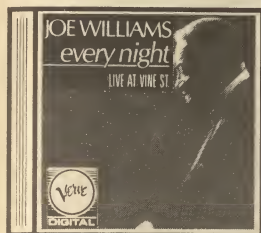
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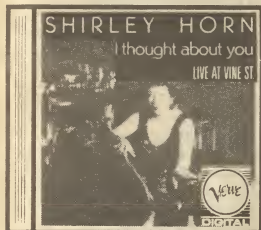
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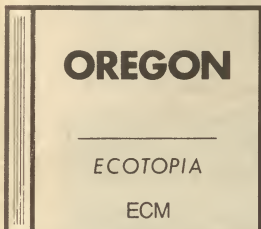
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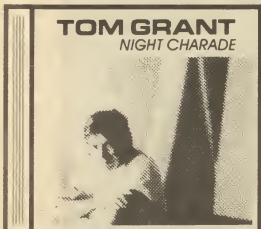
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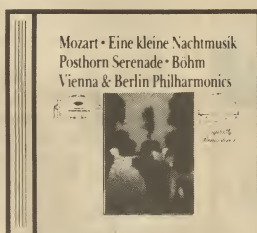


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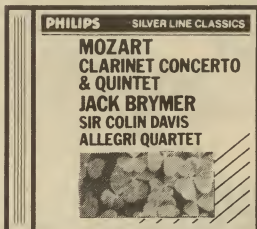
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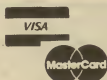
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Seeking Shelter From The Storm

Let us begin by giving credit where credit is due: The idea is not mine but that of Danny Williams, who, as a comedian, can get away with this sort of thing much better than I can.

"Don't you wonder sometimes," he asked, "whatever happened to the old Club Baths at 8th and Howard? I know it's a shelter for the homeless now, but what I want to know is this: Is the dress code still enforced? What did they do with all the towels? Do the homeless leave their doors ajar to invite midnight company? And what night is buddy night anyway?"

Scandalized but amused, I decided to check it out for myself. Although I was never a great fan of the baths in their heyday, I was, I admit, not entirely unfamiliar with the establishment at 8th and

Howard, once one of the city's premier bathhouses. It was not a place I looked for love. It was, however, a place I attempted to fulfill a compelling need, especially at certain hours of the morning.

One of Danny's questions was answered as soon as I walked in the front door of the former bathhouse, now the Episcopal Sanctuary. People wearing Lacoste shirts, designer sweaters, and perfume are not discouraged from entering the premises, as they were in "the old days." Neither are people wearing grocery boxes or newspapers on their heads, such as the woman who was standing in line next to me. At the new 8th and Howard, all manner of dress and behavior, from bedsheets to invisible companions, are welcome. It is, in many ways, a far more democratic



The 8th and Howard Baths is now the Episcopal Sanctuary

(Photo: S. Savage)

place than it used to be.

At the head of the line, facing the same bullet-proof glass windows I encountered years ago but surrounded by newly-placed job opportunity posters, I could have chosen to sign in and turn over my valuables in exchange for a room key, just like I did eons ago.

Instead, I stated my business, filed through the same heavy security doors, and headed up the staircase to the second floor—where God only knew what adventures might befall me, either then or now.

God appeared in the person of one of his ministers on Earth, Father William B. Nern, an Episcopal priest who is the executive director of the shelter. Father Nern welcomed me to his offices, which are located along the wall where I once watched porn movies (and performed an entirely natural act upon one Dan E., if truth be told). I refrained from mentioning this to the good Father, however.

Instead, I commented on the light streaming in from the many open windows—windows I never noticed when I was focusing on other things (and which, in any case, were painted black to shut out the "real" world).

Father Nern soon turned me over to Stephen Suwalsky, the Sanctuary's operations coordinator. Suwalsky explained that the shelter opened in 1983 in the basement of Grace Cathedral, moved six months later to the Canon-Kip Center on 8th Street, and finally opened on the site of the old bathhouse, following a year of construction and renovation, in October, 1987.

The shelter, Suwalsky noted, exists primarily to serve three groups: the frail elderly, the handicapped and disabled, and single women. "Anyone who belongs to one of these groups can get in with no questions asked," he explained. "There are no requirements and no restrictions on the length of stay."

In addition, the Sanctuary offers help to approximately 30 to 40 "client volunteers," single men who do security, kitchen, and maintenance work four hours a day in exchange for food, shelter, counseling, and employment assistance. These men are accepted on a standby basis for a maximum stay of 90 days. If by some chance there is no room for them at the 250-bed facility, they may seek admittance to the Salvation Army or to one of the other shelters in town.

Suwalsky was quite enthusi-

astic about showing me the changes the building has undergone since the Sanctuary took over. Women are housed in small private singles or doubles on the first floor for security reasons. The disabled are placed in nearby four-bed cubicles equipped for their special needs. Upstairs, compartments with one to four beds line the walls for other clients. These sleeping spaces are small, but they are sunny, light, and clean—a far cry from the cramped, Criscoed cubbyholes of days gone by.

Downstairs, a brand-new kitchen gleams. The renovated bathrooms with private stalls and showers (which used to be oh-so-public) are equally spotless. The old pool and sauna area upstairs has been replaced by a clothing, storage, and distribution area. Practically the only room in the entire place that hasn't changed is a room the bathhouse patrons never saw in the first place—the laundry room (where the towels were done, Mr. Williams).

In other rooms, space is offered for one of several groups—veterans, ex-offenders, and drug and alcohol abusers—who count the shelter's clients among their members, as well as for many of the Sanctuary's full-time staff members.

A first-floor activity room contains couches and a TV. A chapel (!) provides a quiet place for meditation and worship, although people don't kneel for the same reason they once did. (The orgy room, incidentally, has long since disappeared.)

Before ending the tour, Suwalsky pointed out that "the bishop blessed all these areas" before opening the shelter doors to the homeless. Perhaps because of that—or for more secular reasons—there has never been any stigma attached to the Sanctuary, claimed Suwalsky, despite the building's checkered history.

"We thought we might encounter some discomfort or AIDS-related hysteria," he admitted, "but we never have. Neither the officials nor our guests have seemed to mind—which is fortunate, since we thought it would be a very good use for the property, very compatible."

Of that, there is no doubt. Thanks primarily to the efforts of men like Suwalsky, Father Nern, and William H. Barcus, a canon to the AIDS ministry at Grace Cathedral who played a large part in establishing the Sanctuary, there is now a safe, clean

place where the homeless can rest. Since this was once a place where gay men could recreate, a home away from home for those seeking a different kind of refuge, some have viewed it as a loss for the community.

Having seen the place in its various incarnations, however, I cannot agree. We are all seeking shelter from the storm these days. Sure, the baths were fun, but "fun" isn't the point anymore. Survival is.

Danny Williams, while he jokes about it, knows this. "I used to be homeless myself back in the early '70s when I first left home, so I know how important shelters are," he says. "They certainly saved my life."

Still, I wonder what Danny would make of the following sign, currently posted on one of the shelter walls: "Ask in clinic for condoms and bleach." I know what the condoms are for, but do the homeless really have time to do their hair?

Maybe if the owners of the old 8th and Howard had offered free henna treatments when rimming went out of style, the baths never would have closed in the first place.

At least, it's nice to think so. ●

Ward 5-A Volunteers Needed


The volunteers of Ward 5-A at San Francisco General Hospital are in the process of increasing their staff.

Persons who feel they would be able to commit themselves to one or two days or evenings per week on the ward and feel they have the capability and capacity to give loving, caring, and practical support to the patients and their families on this unit are encouraged to apply.

Call 821-8193 for more information, or write to SFCH, 1001 Portrero Ave., S.E., CA 94110, att: Jay Margery, Director of Volunteer Training/Ward 5-A. ●

Alexander Hamilton Legionnaires to Meet

The Alexander Hamilton American Legion Post 448 will meet Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in room 213 of the Veterans Memorial Building. There is no speaker scheduled, but all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and straight veterans are welcome. ●




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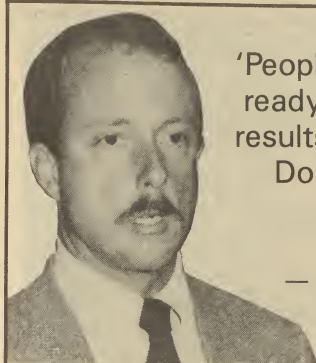
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'People need to be ready to hear the results of the test. Do it with your eyes open.'

— Tim Wolfred

Testing

(Continued from page 1)

Moreover, Britt is concerned about the large number of seropositive individuals who until recently have been overlooked. "There are now over two-million people who are seropositive in this country. It's important that they not be neglected in areas of rights, job protection, discrimination, research and funding."

PERSONAL DECISION

Cleve Jones, community activist and organizer of the Names Project Quilt, stressed that the decision to take the test is very personal. Speaking of his own decision, he said, "My own response has been to get tested. I put it off for a long time—until I needed to know. The decisive issue for me was parenting."

When Jones took the test, he discovered that he was seropositive for the AIDS antibody. "It had a profound influence on my health habits—for the better," he said.

Pat Norman, National Chair of the March on Washington, expressed concern over issues of anonymity and confidentiality. "My fears still revolve around anonymity. But if anonymity is assured, and people are assured of protection in all areas of possible ramifications from the test, then having the knowledge of your antibody status is very useful for health habits and seeking treatment."

But Norman stressed that anonymity is crucial. "I get in trouble whenever I say this, but I need to be clear that there is no such thing as confidentiality once you get inside a bureaucratic system. Hospital records are available to many people, and when insurance companies and HMOs are still considering ways to get this information for their use, then it's important that people be assured of protection."

Norman raised questions about the unresolved issue of health care and treatment delivery. "Yes, people need to take care of themselves, but they also need to know how they're going to be taken care of in terms of treatment—who's going to take care of them, and who's going to know. I'm concerned for gay people, needle users, people of color, and sex industry workers. How will their treatment be managed?"

Health Commissioner Jim Foster spoke of the change in the medical value of the AIDS-antibody test. "I think there's been a major shift" in the usefulness of test results, Foster said. "I've always been very much in favor of voluntary testing, as long as confidentiality restrictions are in place."

TREATMENT POSSIBLE

"In the past, much of the reluctance against testing was because the test didn't tell you

much," Foster said. "Now, however, there is growing anecdotal evidence that early treatment is very effective in AIDS seropositivity. For that reason, it now makes a great deal of sense to be tested and to determine your immune response, so if that response is low, you can begin prophylactic treatment."

Tim Wolfred, director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, expressed concern about the psychological impact of test results on the personal level. "The foundation has always advocated that people should be informed regarding the test and then make their own decision" about whether or not to take the test.

"The psychological component is very important to consider. People need to be ready to hear the results of the test. Do it with your eyes open," Wolfred advised.

Wolfred is also concerned with confidentiality. "I think it's important to talk geography" when talking about the decision to take the test. "In San Francisco, we have antidiscrimination protections, but other areas of the country aren't ready" with the necessary protections of confidentiality and anonymity.

Dr. David Kessler, president of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights (BAPHR)—speaking not for BAPHR but only of his own views—said, "I

have always been in favor of people taking the test if they want to take it. These might be people who want to know so as to pursue early treatment rather than wait for AIDS or ARC to develop. I still believe that to be the case."

Kessler stressed the importance as well of confidentiality and of being as fully informed as possible. "I think people should take the test *anonymously*. They also should think about being psychologically prepared for their test results. Why do they want to know? Curiosity? Impetus for lifestyle changes? Or to go ahead and get early treatment?"

"If they want treatment," Kessler advises, "they need to be very well-informed on the available treatments, their side effects, their expected outcomes."

TIME OF THE ESSENCE

Greg Day, a long-time gay activist, spoke of his opposition to the test as a community-wide phenomenon, stressing that it should always be an individual decision.

But he spoke of the urgency of making that decision: "With AIDS, time is of the essence. If you are seropositive, waiting for a diagnosis is not a positive way of taking charge of your life. If as a high-risk person you feel it's likely that you're positive, and you're interested in that knowledge because you want to take pro-active steps such as lifestyle changes and treatment options, then take the test," Day said.

Day stressed the importance of following risk reduction guidelines regardless of your antibody status. "All people should be practicing safe sex now," he said. "If an HIV diagnosis will help you, then take the test. But everyone should remember that we must practice safe sex techniques only and not share needles."

In taking the test, Day agrees that confidentiality is essential. "Confidentiality is of the first and utmost importance," he emphasized. "Be certain that you have the utmost trust in your doc-

'There is no such thing as confidentiality once you get inside a bureaucratic system.'

— Pat Norman



tor, and then seriously consider who, if anyone, you want to tell publicly."

Carole Migden, chair of the San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee and director of Operation Concern, is a strong supporter of voluntary testing for the AIDS-antibody.

CONFRONT SITUATION

"I'm a whole-hearted proponent of voluntary testing," she said. "In the past, when treatment prospects were bleak, the best thing to do was to make lifestyle changes."

But speaking of the situation today, with treatment options available, Migden said, "I believe it's the responsible, life-affirming approach to be tested, to confront your medical situation head-on, and to take the medical steps necessary to assure a long and happy life."

Project Inform issued a public call for voluntary testing at its Dec. 7 town meeting. It is the first national AIDS organization to urge voluntary testing. Citing medical and epidemiological evidence that shows nearly all HIV seropositive individuals will develop AIDS or ARC symptoms within seven years of infection—if the HIV infection is left untreated—Project Inform stressed that it is crucial for individuals to learn their antibody status before symptoms appear.

If individuals learn that they are seropositive for the HIV antibody, they should consider starting anti-viral and immune-stimulating treatments, say Project Inform representatives. There are now several available including AZT, Ribavirin, dextran sulfate, AL721, naltrexone, DNCB, and others.

This represents a new strategy in the fight against AIDS, a departure from the past belief that the antibody test was of very little value. Because issues of confidentiality, discrimination, and insurance were so unsettled when the AIDS-antibody test first became available, there was widespread objection to use of the test, with many gay and medical leaders adopting a position against taking the test.

But in recent months, that has begun to change, primarily because of the growing number of unapproved and alternative treatments available to combat the AIDS virus. According to Project Inform, many medical authorities are now in agreement that the earlier treatment for the infection is begun, the better are an individual's chances to maintain good health.

According to Project Inform, waiting for symptoms to appear does not allow for an aggressive, pro-active, and preventive treatment strategy—something which they believe to be crucial.

SHOULD YOU TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST?

Possible Benefits

- People who get test results usually reduce high risk behavior.
- By taking the test, you find out whether or not you can infect others.
- Regardless of the result, testing often increases a person's commitment to overall good health habits.
- People who test negative feel less anxious after testing.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Antibody Testing which is **voluntary, free and anonymous**. Counseling and referrals are also available. To make an appointment for testing, call **621-4858**.

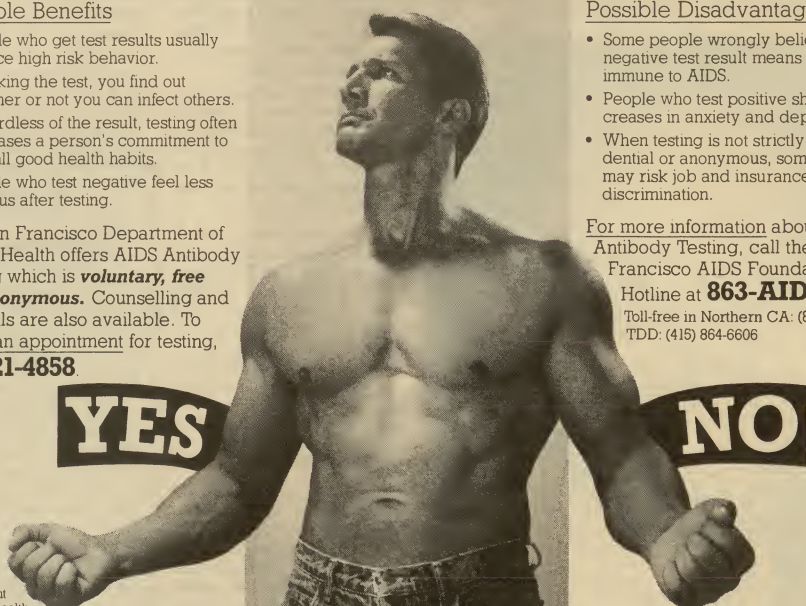
Possible Disadvantages

- Some people wrongly believe that a negative test result means they are immune to AIDS.
- People who test positive show increases in anxiety and depression.
- When testing is not strictly confidential or anonymous, some people may risk job and insurance discrimination.

For more information about AIDS Antibody Testing, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation

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Funding for this message provided by the S.F. Department of Public Health.



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Braithwaite, Cameron Stress Cooperation

'Cease In-Fighting' Alice's New Aim

by Miranda Kolbe

After what was described by many members as a painful year, the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club began 1988 with an election of new officers who are collectively determined to steer the club on a new course.

Nine out of ten of the new officers ran unopposed. All ten were nominated from an ad-hoc committee called the Progressive Caucus, which was formed late last year in the midst of the bitter campaign over the club's endorsement in the mayoral race. Those ten were: President, Ron Braithwaite; Vice President, Barbara Cameron; Issues Committee Chair, Sharon Bretz; Political Action Committee Chair, Lester Olmstead-Rose; Treasurer, Linda Boyd; Finance Committee Chair, Jon Langley; Membership Committee Chair, Paul Fahey; Corresponding Secretary, Karen Norman; Recording Secretary, John Duane; and Public Relations Director, David Devereaux.

In her nomination platform, Vice Pres. Cameron referred to the problems the club had been facing in 1987, stating, "Alice's internecine activity in 1987 had a detrimental effect on its integrity and has shaken its foundation," and referred to "mudslinging," "name calling," "manipulations" and "mistrust" within the club.

Pres. Braithwaite stated that many of the problems had been based on controversies which arose during the Agnos/Molinari campaign. He said, "There was a tremendous amount of vote-buying in the endorsement process. We went from 270 to 1,100 members last year ... People didn't respect the process."

In her speech, Cameron called to members of the club to cease the infighting which had occurred last year, and suggested that if members choose to continue to fight over the mayoral campaign "you should leave now."

Cameron also suggested that the difficulties the club faced throughout the mayoral campaign were symptomatic of problems the club had had for many years. Cameron said that in the past there has been a perception of the club as having "a 'Mr. Alice' attitude which is exclusive,

which patronizes women and other minorities, which includes women and other minorities only to the extent of being politically correct ... maintaining a facade of being open to all, but at the same time making sure that it is only open to a few."

THREE SUGGESTIONS

Braithwaite offered three suggestions for the club in 1988. "We must work toward including underrepresented people in the membership of the club," he said. "We must become a full-service club, and give people the opportunity to focus on issues of concern to them ... We just establish a process of integrity ... listen to one another ... respect one another ... and we will find a common ground."

All of the candidates stressed the importance of coalition building with other gay and lesbian organizations, and working to include members of previously underrepresented groups within the club.

As a sign of that commitment, the Club voted toward gender-parity in choosing its representatives to the upcoming California Democratic Council convention. However, when a suggestion was made to do the same for other minorities, that suggestion was dismissed. While Cameron said this was because there were simply "too few members of minorities in the Club to make that workable," Braithwaite said that with its new leadership, the Club would aim for such parity in the future.

The agenda for the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club in 1988 includes working on local campaigns as well as influencing the presidential campaign, keeping the USS Missouri out of San Francisco, working for increased AIDS funding and against AIDS discrimination, and working for national health insurance or other affordable and accessible health care.



The chairs of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club

(Photo: S. Martin)

3 Political Clubs Sign Truce

Statements of Unity, Not Uniformity; Promotes Common Goals, Ethics

by Allen White

An attempt to heal wounds from last year's mayoral race has resulted in a "Statement of Common Goals and Principles" being drafted by representatives of the city's three major lesbian/gay Democratic clubs. The document has two parts. The first section outlines shared goals and values grounded in the historical experience of gay and lesbian communities. The second part outlines some issues and agendas which the writers say "invites elaboration." The preface of the document states, "It is hoped that this consensus statement and the process of ongoing dialogue that it elicits, can form one basis for communication and reconciliation in our community."

The group that drafted the statement included David Devereaux and Richmond Young from the Alice B. Toklas Club, Bill Paul from Stonewall, and Tony Travers from the Milk Club.

The Stonewall Gay Democratic Club was the first club to vote to endorse the document. At their Jan. 4 meeting of Stonewall, membership approved the resolution.

Bill Paul, a vice-president of Stonewall, said, "We don't want uniformity. It is not a platform of issues but we talk in terms of general goals, general principles. This is a code of ethics."

The paper is an attempt to find areas where there is common agreement among the clubs. "I don't think there is much that we disagree with," said Paul. "What we wanted to get is a statement that we could all agree on."

Monday night, Jan. 11, Alice B. Toklas Club also voted to endorse the statement. Ron Braithwaite, the new president of the club, said, "We need all three clubs to work on the agenda for our community. That's what we all have in common. The attempt was to focus all three clubs on the same agenda, what it is the lesbian and gay clubs are working on and to start a process where we can all work together."

The Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club will probably submit the resolution to their members at their next meeting. Tony Travers was the Milk Club representative who worked on the formulation of the document.

He commented, "The three lesbian and gay Democratic



Bill Paul

(Photo: BAR)

bian and gay community. I think that lesbian and gay people have a tendency, as a community, to be more progressive than other communities, so therefore our community would look more progressive."

Travers said, "You will notice we were careful with the language in the progressive agenda. We discussed the need for affordable housing. We discussed the need for rent control while at the same time not trying to step on the toes of homeowners. We address both issues because there are people in all three clubs who are renters and there are people in all three clubs who are homeowners and we have to address both areas. What we have to select is the happy medium. The fact is the three clubs are working together to come up with something and if we don't all agree with what's said individually, I'm sure that's okay. The fact is we are working together on what are common goals. If we don't agree with rent control, then let's move on to what we do agree on."

From the Statement of Common Goals and Principles

- The ensuing development of our historic civil rights movement is what has sustained and motivated our electoral political participation.
- Our community's role in political life has had a positive and progressive impact on the major human and social issues of our era, including issues and concerns beyond perceptions of our own specific self-interests as a community.
- It is therefore false and unjust to characterize our role as a narrow single issue movement or to assume that our aspirations somehow necessarily conflict with those of other oppressed communities.
- We will not accept subordinate or inferior status in politics and government. If we are to play a political role, especially in coalitions, then our community and our representatives must be accorded the respect given any other people. This includes a proper recognition that we, like any other people, are equally able to legislate and govern fairly for the benefit of all citizens.
- We must conduct ourselves in an atmosphere of mutual respect, among both organizations and individuals. We must overcome tendencies to personally attack one another over differences of opinion. We must be able to debate and to disagree with civility.




Ron Braithwaite, the new president of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club

(Photo: S. Martin)

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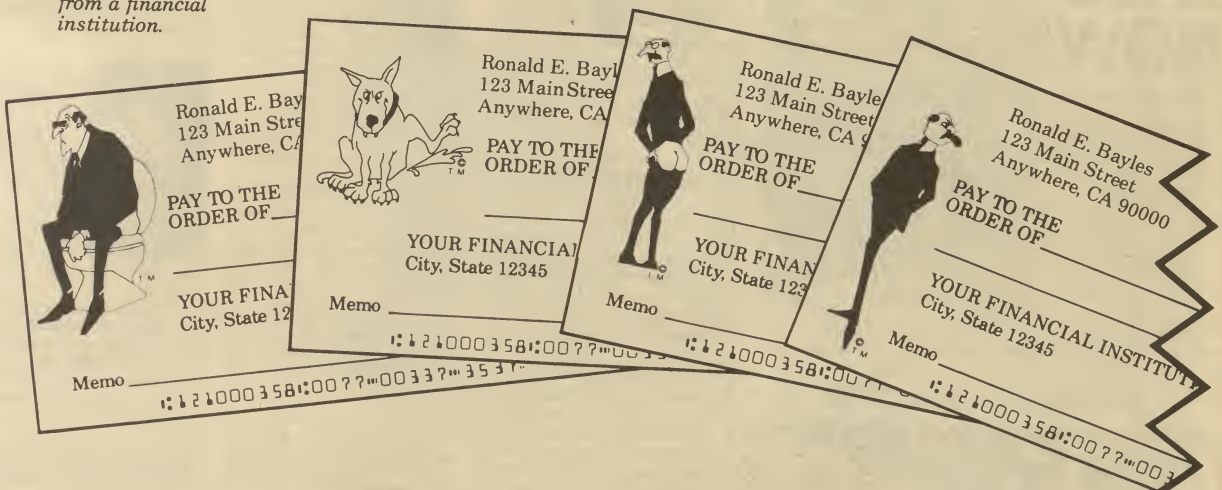
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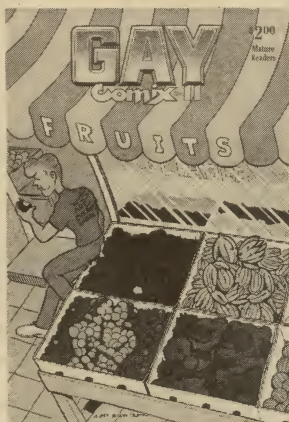
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DEATHS

Brian Lee Brecht

Brian Lee Brecht, 30, San Francisco, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco early Friday, Jan. 8, following an extended illness. The body was cremated. A memorial service was conducted by Rev. Howard F. Newman at the Neptune Society Columbarium on Monday, Jan. 11. Private inurnment will be held in West Branch at a later date.



Brian was born in Iowa City on July 6, 1957, the son of Derald and Marietta Ketchum Brecht. He graduated from West Branch Community Schools in 1975. Prior to moving to California in 1980, he was employed at American College Testing in Iowa City. He was employed as a computer programmer for Merrill Lynch in San Francisco. For the past three years he was site supervisor for Telerate Communications, a New York-based finance company.

Survivors include his parents, a brother and sister-in-law, Derald, Jr. and Dianne, a nephew, Matthew, and a niece, Melissa, all of Newbury Park, CA. He was preceded in death by two brothers and his grandparents.

Memorial contributions may be made to the San Francisco Shanti Project or the American Cancer Society.

David Frank Pursell

July 7, 1953-Dec. 27, 1987

After doing battle with AIDS for more than two years David passed away at home with his best friend Tom Duncan. David graduated from West Point in 1975, and was active in the theater, loved music, and also enjoyed playing bridge.



He was the beloved son of Grace Pursell and the late Robert Pursell and the loving brother of Carl, Robert Les Jr., Pat Stendth, Candy Cherry, and Cheryl Pursell. David is also survived by his many friends who will always remember him for his kind and caring ways.

A memorial service was held on the 30th of December, and interment will be at the Presidio.

Obituary Policy

Bay Area Reporter publishes obituaries as a free community service. Obituaries are accepted until 5 p.m. Monday for Thursday publication. We ask that you keep them under 200 words. We reserve the right to edit obituaries for length or style. We cannot publish poetry.

If you wish photos returned, please submit a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Photos can also be picked up at the B.A.R. office Thursday or any working day between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

A.J. (Skip) Rodriguez

June 26, 1947-Jan. 9, 1988

Born in Baton Rouge, LA and moved to San Francisco in 1972. Employed by Bechtel Power Corp. for 14 years.

Skip was preceded in death by his lover, Al Majewsky, who succumbed to AIDS in May 1986, and fought the same battle with AIDS himself.



Skip and Al were brave men who fought this disease with all of their strengths and faiths. Their passing is mourned and their reunion with each other will surely be rejoiced.

Skip is survived by one daughter, one granddaughter, three brothers, and one sister.

In his final days he was cared for by his loving brother, Bill, and his sister-in-law, Donice. If there is a God, then he surely smiles down on this couple. They are fine examples to follow, renewing lost faith in family structure, love, and acceptance of all lifestyles in a time when many attitudes are changing in negative ways.

Hopefully Skip's memory will remain with us always. He was ready with a free drink, a quick cash loan, and a patient listening ear for many of us.

Skip loved and was loved and for this I consider him a very lucky man. He will remain in my heart, mind and soul forever.

Thank you for being part of my life and sharing your love with me. Leo.

Richard Verkade

1/11/50-1/5/88

Many of us have been touched by the magic of Dick Verkade. Jack of all trades. Life of the party. The perfect host. Chef extraordinaire. Devoted friend. Generous lover. Life enthusiast.

In his last few years, Dick employed his many talents caring for his loved ones.

His many friends were able to return this love during his brief illness.

Dick Verkade, Master Wizard.

Donations may be made in Dick's memory to the Shanti Project, 525 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94105.

Richard Jetter

Richard Jetter died of AIDS related conditions on Dec. 26, 1987 at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco. He was 34. His mother and father and friends were grateful to be with him in his final hours.

Richard was a talented composer who studied at the Peabody Institute and at Cal Poly. He enjoyed a year of teaching music in the backlands of Liberia as a Peace Corps volunteer. Richard was a whiz as a computer programmer and teacher.

Richard sought a spiritual path through life and hoped for one through death. A memorial service and interment will take place on Jan. 23 at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills, Los Angeles.

A. Richard Cutler

Rev. A. Richard Cutler, 56, died Oct. 2 of AIDS at a Grass Valley medical facility. A memorial mass took place Oct. 10 at St. Patrick's Church in Grass Valley.

Rev. Cutler, a Roman Catholic priest for 29 years, served most recently at St. Patrick's in Grass Valley, Beale Air Force Base, and other parishes in the Grass Valley area.

While in San Francisco from 1973 to 1983, Fr. Cutler served as a board member on the Council of Religion and the Homosexual, as chaplain at the Presidio, Fort Mason, and St. Mary's Hospital. He also was involved with Dignity in San Francisco and in Sacramento during those years.



He was a certified alcohol and drug counselor and served with a number of community groups including Nevada County Alcohol and Drug Recovery Task Force, the Committee on the Disabled, and the AIDS Committee.

Dick was also vice-president of the national board of the Horseless Carriage Club of America and was active in the Gold Country and Bay Area Regional Horseless Carriage activities and clubs.

He is survived by his lover, soul-mate and friend Rev. Virgil Hall of Grass Valley and by many friends in many places.

Donations in his memory may be made either to the National Horseless Carriage Club Foundation or to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Peter Colly

A glorious voice went to join the choir of angels on Jan. 4 at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco.

Peter was not only a star for five years at Fincocchio's, but prior to San Francisco, he worked all over Europe, sang with the Goldofsky Opera Co. in New York, appeared in several Broadway show choruses, and sang and danced in several movies, including *Funny Lady* with Streisand.



His ability to take the bizarre to great heights and come up with a wonderful stage act was only topped by his wide singing range. He could handle soft ballads, jazz and blues, then immediately switch to a coloratura soprano and present a tender, beautiful "Un bel di."

He will be missed not only by all his friends and fans, and the cast and staff of Fincocchio's, but especially by his lover of six years, David Edwards.

Thanks to the staff at Kaiser, his Shanti Project volunteer, Brad Craft, and to Eve Fincocchio for all her help and great concern.

A celebration of Peter's life and career will be held on Jan. 18, at Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant, 7:30 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Hotline!!

150,000 Americans Call '800' AIDS Phone Number

More than 150,000 Americans have responded to the AIDS epidemic during the past three months by calling the National AIDS Information Hotline (1-800-342-AIDS) to get up-to-date facts about the disease. Officials at the American Social Health Association (ASHA), operating the hotline under contract with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, attribute much of this volume to the federally funded national AIDS education campaign called "America Responds to AIDS," which began Oct. 1.

Calls to the hotline have more than tripled since the beginning of the campaign. The number for the hotline appears on all AIDS campaign materials, including public service announcements, brochures, point-of-purchase displays, and transit posters.

Totals for hotline calls have risen from 20,497 in September

to 49,594 in October and 67,332 in November. Hotline calls are continuing at a high level in December. At mid-month, calls totalled 33,488. More than 15 million "What You Should Know About AIDS" information brochures have been distributed so far.

Overall intensive efforts of the

campaign have been enhanced by the growing amount of airtime being given to radio and television public service announcements by networks, cable stations, and local stations nationwide. The TV announcements have run on NBC, CBS and ABC during prime-time and other key program slots, and various cable networks such as CNN and ESPN have also aired the spots. On Nov. 19, NBC donated for the first time the equivalent of \$900,000 of airtime during "The Cosby Show" to air a 60-second campaign PSA entitled "New York."

As a part of its effort to educate the public about AIDS prevention, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services quadrupled the capacity of the National AIDS Hotline on Oct. 1. Capacity for the hotline now reaches 8,000 calls a day.

Travels With A.J.

Gay Guide Helps Tourists See the Real San Francisco

by Mary Richards

Aaron Pierce, or A.J. as many tourists call him, looks sort of like Luciano Pavarotti with glasses. His sense of humor never fails, and his stories are amusing tales of how visitors react to San Francisco, and to the gay community in particular.

When the tour buses go through Castro and the tourist season is at its height, it's easy to see the tourists gawking. The ironic part is that most of the people on the bus don't realize there is a gay man in their midst—and that it's their tour guide, A.J.

He tried to tell them in the beginning, he says, but they just wouldn't believe him. A.J. remembers that fateful day when he was a beginning driver on his first bus full of tourists.

As he tells the story: "There was a straight man teaching me while we were on the tour. We're going up 18th and Castro and he says to the bus, 'I'm told that one out of three men in this city is homosexual. Meanwhile, I'm trying to steer this bus and not kill some wayward queen.'

"Then the tour guide says, 'Well, I'm not... how about you, Aaron?' And he puts the microphone right in front of my face. So I said, 'I am!'

"He quickly took the microphone away from me as I said, 'Well, you asked!' Most of the people on the tour thought I was joking."

He talks about his tourists and says, "I don't know exactly what I represent to them, it's something different to every person." A logical suggestion might be that it's a father-figure, but A.J. discounts that theory.

"More like a mother," he laughs, "a mother hen—here chick, chick, chick. The driver gets to be the father, I'm the mother."

"It's a very sad fact," he acknowledges, "that these people are incapable of traveling by themselves. Would you really pay \$1,000 without airfare to ride around on a bus with me barking orders at you to get up at 6 a.m. because we're going to leave at 8 and have fun?"

He recalls one woman in particular, the principal of a junior high school in Texas. She wrote him a thank you note which he reads with a Texas drawl: "A.J., call me if you ever head down my way—it was fun meetin' ya."

He remembers that she was sitting next to him on a wine tour and he asked her if there was anything she needed. She said yes, and proceeded to ask him where there was a woman's bar. "I'm a 50-year-old woman," she said, and "I know I have inner needs I've never met. This is my one chance to find out. I'm going to do it."

"If you read between the lines of her letter," he says, "you realize she must have had a hell of a night!"

His tourists always ask the same questions: Where was *Bullitt* filmed? How come the Golden Gate Bridge isn't gold?

But there was one question even A.J. found it hard to answer, and it was asked as they were driving through the Castro.

It was a beautiful day, and A.J. was pointing out Castro, and the Eureka Valley and Noe Valley areas. He recalls that one of the woman leaned over and said: "Do you know where 19th and Church Street is?" I said, yeah. "Is that gay, too?" Well, any area

of the city could or couldn't be—why do you want to know? "My son lives there," she said, "Is he gay?"

I said, with a straight face, I don't know, I haven't dated him.

She went on, "In college he was living with a bunch of men and word had it that it was a homosexual nest." A nest? "Yes," she said, "but the sheriff got right in there and cleaned it all out."

A.J. couldn't help himself: "Madame," he pointed out, "may I remind you that you are talking about your son and his friends—not a bunch of cockroaches!"



Aaron Pierce

(Photo: S. Savage)

There's usually an awkward moment on some tours when A.J. has to socialize with the widows or single ladies on tour. He can sometimes avoid dancing by bringing up an old war wound or the stray dog that bit him last week. But sometimes it doesn't work and he says, "The truth of the matter is I don't know how to dance unless somebody else leads."

He remembers one sweet old lady saying to him, as they took to the floor, "Mr. Pierce, you're like a breath of fresh air, but don't you know, you're supposed to lead!"

As any good tour guide would do, A.J. brings up the famous who have lived in San Francisco, and he takes that opportunity to mention famous gays, too, such as Alice B. Toklas, Gertrude Stein and Lucius Beebe. When they go past City Hall, he often relates the dramatic story of how Dan White killed Mayor George Moscone and Sup. Harvey Milk.

Although he takes long-distance tours, he prefers to work in the city. "I don't care for them as much as the local work," A.J. says, "because I look at it as a chance to educate people about

San Francisco. I love to help people."

One day he was stopped by a couple asking directions to the Cable Cars. The woman said to him, "Are you a San Franciscan?" He said yes. She said, "Aren't you really pissed about it?" What? "Those gays, they killed the Mayor!"

Now it's A.J.'s turn to be teacher, and you can just hear him as the truth gets told: "I think you've got it backwards, madame. What really happened ..."

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San Francisco, CA 94103
Toll-Free Northern California
Hotline 800-FOR AIDS
TDD 415-864-6606

Major funding for the educational programs of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is provided by the San Francisco Department of Public Health

End Contra Funds, Spend On Research, Say 50 Protesters

No Arrests at Paint-In; Charges Reduced From Earlier Demo

by Dennis McMillan

Chanting "No closets, no quarantine, we're against this war machine," 50 gay and lesbian protesters marched in front of the U.S. Armed Forces recruiting station on Market Street Monday, Jan. 11. The demonstration was organized by Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention (LAGAI) and they were there to demand that the U.S. government stop aiding the contras and spend more on AIDS services and research. "Quarantine the war machine," they said, "not people with AIDS." A squad of city riot police looked on.



Gay woman demonstrates outside Armed Forces Recruitment Center (Photo: S. Savage)

Some of the protesters unrolled a large banner reading, "No Recruits for Murder." One of the men holding the banner, David Stern, commented, "I'm a person with AIDS, and I think it's important not only to support the people in Central America, but also because I don't want our government spending money on things like this, but on services to people with AIDS, not to mention doing research and education."

Last Sept. 25, eight people were arrested in an all-gay and lesbian action at the recruiting center. Thirty lesbians and gay men demonstrated at the recruiting station on Market and 8th Streets, while simultaneously in Oakland, twenty-five women held a similar protest at the Telegraph Avenue recruitment center.

Emily Rosen, from the Oakland group, took the bullhorn and announced that a theatrical reenactment of the Sept. 25 action would be portrayed. Several street actors began throwing imaginary paint all over the sidewalk and windows. People painted with imaginary paint symbols of protest on the brick walls. A woman with a giant badge reading, "Ess Eff Pee Dee," began harassing the crowd, randomly "arresting" several mock protesters.

The real police were not amused. Rosen announced, "This is what went on Sept. 25. You are there." One demonstrator offered the recruiters a can of paint remover, an empty prop, to take care of any imaginary damages that many have occurred during the mock demonstration.

An hour after it began, the demonstration was peacefully concluded. No arrests were made this time. Last September was a different story.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

At that time, while chanting, "Money for AIDS, not for war," protesters painted yellow gloveprints symbolic of the police who don yellow gloves whenever they have to touch homosexuals; red handprints for the bloodshed in Central America; and pink triangles on the windows and walls of the San Francisco recruitment center. This action was intended to show the link between the U.S. military and AIDS phobia, gay oppression and violence in Central America.

Three protesters were arbitrarily picked out of the September group and arrested by recruitment officers. One woman, who had only been an onlooker at the time, was allegedly pointed out by the officials as a target. "Her, let's get her," remarked one of

the recruiters, she said. But police could find no reason to arrest her. When she accidentally dropped her protest banner on the sidewalk, police wrote out a \$10 littering citation.

Kate Raphael was arrested as was a man in a red jumpsuit, Arawn Eibhlyn. Another lesbian, preferring to be identified as "Glendi," was arrested because she was in the company of Eibhlyn.

One of the recruiters additionally filed a battery suit against Eibhlyn, although the "victim" couldn't decide whether he was actually assaulted or not during the verbal altercation. Several of the recruiter witnesses had conflicting stories.

The gay man and two lesbians were hauled off to the Hall of Justice and booked for misdemeanors. When asked what the charge was, they said they were told "suspicion of communism." Later on, the charges were raised to felonies, including \$30,000 worth of damages. The trio of "criminals" was held for 24 hours and then released on their own recognizance.

CHARGES DROPPED

At their trial arraignment, charges were reduced to misdemeanors and the damages dropped drastically to \$500. Despite the reduction of damages claimed against them, the three "offenders" were still facing jail terms of 30 days or more, as well as long probations.

During a conference before their trial on Jan. 11, Arawn and Glendi did not plead to the charge, but were given pre-trial diversions in which they would each have to fulfill 50 hours of

community services and pay the damages. All charges will then be dismissed and off the record.

Glendi was satisfied with the sentence, although she wryly added, "The only offer that we would have been happy with was to end the war."

Raphael's sentence was one-and-a-half years probation with one month suspended. Should she be arrested within one-and-a-half year's time, she would have to serve at least one month in jail. This is highly likely, given Raphael's strong persuasion toward protest, and considering she has had prior convictions for civil disobedience.

Raphael stated with conviction, "I think it's really important that we in the gay community and the anti-militarist communities work together more than we have. As a member of Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention, I think cases like this are opportunities to bridge the gaps between the communities and have more of a focus on AIDS and gay rights."

Concerning the monetary damages, the military has been ordered to present actual proof of any monies spent after insurance coverage. This will have to be paid by the San Francisco Three. It is hoped the sum will be less than \$500, and will certainly be less than the original estimate of \$30,000.

BUNCH OF QUEERS

The flyers in support of the San Francisco Three stated "The district attorneys and the military seem to believe they can use women and gay demonstrators to set dangerous sentencing precedents to limit protest. They hope

the non-intervention movement won't care about a bunch of queers, the gay community won't come out in support of leftist protesters, and the civil disobedience community won't support actions where paint was used. We hope they're wrong! We've got to fight this, gay and straight together!"

Emily Rose explained that these protests are "part of a spectrum" that includes the upcoming march to Burlingame against Burroughs-Wellcome and its policy on the drug AZT.

Rosen further commented that the purpose of these demonstrations was "to continue to make the connections between the U.S.'s foreign and domestic policies as far as funding for war instead of funding for AIDS and human needs. Hopefully when we think about our oppression as being gays, we can feel how other people might be oppressed."

Eibhlyn explained the zeal for his original protest in September. "We came out because we see hundreds of thousands of people dying from AIDS, and in the middle of an epidemic we see a government that isn't taking any steps to bring about an end to this epidemic. At the same time we look to Central America and see that tens of thousands of people have died trying to struggle for their own freedom and the right to control their own destiny," he said.

"The reason we took the action that we did on Sept. 25 is that the common thread in those two things is the U.S. government. There should be more money spent on AIDS research and not towards dominating nations of people around the world," said Eibhlyn. ●



The gay demonstration outside the Armed Forces Recruitment Center (Photo: S. Savage)



Walking the picket line outside the Armed Forces Recruitment Center (Photo: S. Savage)

BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Oakland Judges The Good, The Bad and The Chili

When You're Hot, You're Hot;
When You're Not, You're Beans

by Will Snyder

The cuisine of the evening was called chili, but one could hardly call the food chilly. It was downright spicy Monday evening and a hot time was had by all.

The scene was the Town & Country bar in Oakland. The occasion was the Eighth Annual Chili Cook-off by B.A.R. columnist Nez Pas. Nez' fundraiser (which included a raffle) netted \$440 for the Alameda County Special Olympics, a figure to warm the hearts of many who already had their stomachs warmed by ten pots of the best food North of the Border.

The evening was a perfect combination of good food, community spirit and "special entertainment." The latter was provided when Nez, in announcing the winners, said that Little Mother finished "17th in a field of ten contestants."

With that, the legendary Little Mother emerged from a crowd at the bar, screamed "Fix!" and shook a menacing finger at B.A.R. political editor and chili judge Wayne Friday. Friday began laughing long enough to last until Thursday.

Wayne was one of seven judges who went into the T&C kitchen and sampled the ten pots of chili. When the votes were all counted, "Sweet Richard" was hailed by Nez as the winning chef while Bob St. John was second and Leroy Sellberg third.

But there were other winners, too. According to Jean Jew, a volunteer coordinator for the Alameda County Special Olympics, the \$440 collected on Monday evening was a welcome addi-

tion to her organization's coffers. "In the past, Laney College hasn't charged us for the use of their facilities (for Special Olympics events)," said Jew. "But they've had budgetary problems and have had to charge us. So, all the dollars we can get are welcome."

The Special Olympics, of course, are designed for the mentally retarded and handicapped. Jew said that, as of now, the ages of participants range from eight years old to 70, "although that always changes." For some of the participants, she said, "The money we get gives them an opportunity to go to national Special Olympics, take their first plane flight, stay in their first college dorm, etc."

So, after the steam settled in the Town & Country, Little Mother came up to Wayne Friday and gave him a hug and a kiss. She declined to reveal the ingredients of her exceptional chili. ●

Nez Pas

Of Financial Statements and Strange Bedfellows



Santa's '12 helpers' at Big Mama's

(Photo: D. Jeans)

BOUNTEOUS OFFERTORIES (A "Swathed" Nose)

Ed Paulson's Annual Christmas Collection and Auction held at Big Mama's last December is history, but the memory lingers on. All the presents were wrapped and delivered, thanks to the assistance of 12 of "Santa's Helpers."

Ed wishes to thank everyone who participated—those at the auction, those at the wrapping party, and those who collected, purchased, and delivered the gifts. He especially thanks Marlow and Cabel's Reef for the most gracious donations. He extends apologies to those bars who didn't have a collection barrel. There just wasn't enough time and human resources—"But," countered Ed, "I will be back in July!"

The financial statement for this annual event breaks down as follows:

The income from the auction totaled \$4,021. Purchases of clothing, food, blankets, etc. totaled \$4,425.47. The truck rental was an additional \$168. The expenditures were \$4,593.47,

leaving a deficit of \$572.47. This amount, I understand, was donated by Ed himself!

Donations for food gift certificates added another \$430. An approximate value of \$4,000 was given for all the collected food/toy barrels.

The "infamous" organ will bring an estimated \$1,800, which will be donated to the East Bay Assistance Fund.

So, adding the auction total (\$4,021), the made-up deficit (\$572.47), the gift certificates (\$430), the collection barrels (\$4,000), and the organ income (\$1,800), a fantastic figure of \$10,823.42 is the result of that particular Holiday effort.

A recent letter to Ed stated: "Thank you for your continued support of the Food Bank at the AIDS Project of the East Bay. We are now feeding more people than ever, and this could only be accomplished with the help of caring people like yourself. Community support is the lifeblood of this organization and you are a very valuable part of that network."

"The effort that you have

shown in collecting the food is an inspiration to those of us who work here. It lets us know that there is support for this program in the community. For myself personally, this boost is sometimes needed, and I thank you for helping to provide it. And thank you also from the many people who utilize the Food Bank. Your effort offers them the comfort of knowing that there are people out there who will not be ruled by ignorance or prejudice, but who rather let love of one's fellow human beings dictate their actions. Please never forget that you are a vital part of this organization. Thank you for your time and the effort you put forward in helping us to help people who have AIDS or ARC.

"A big 'love and kisses' for you and all your wonderful folks who help us out and keep us in their hearts."

"Sincerely, David Hardy, Food Bank Coordinator"

Hear! Hear!

From the proceeds of the auction, Ed was able to purchase seven microwave ovens for Fair-

(Continued on next page)

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Nez Pas

(Continued from previous page)

mont Hospital, to be used on a check-out, circulating-type basis. In addition, 50 needy families were furnished Christmas dinner, and 300 needy children received two Christmas presents each. Also, there was enough money raised by Marlow and Cabel's Reef to purchase an additional microwave oven for Fairmont Hospital. Well done!

AMORET FERIAL WAGERING (An "I Love Gambling" Nose?)

There will be another Casino Night. It will be held at Town & Country on Valentine's Day, Sunday, Feb. 14. The hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Games of chance will include Black Jack, Wheel of Fortune, and craps.

One feature of this event is a raffle for a "real" slot machine, on display at the bar. Tickets are only a buck each, and the winner need not be present to win.

Proceeds from both the Casino Night and the slot machine raffle will go the Bay Area Sheppard House (BASH) and In Memory Fund.

TWAIN COMMITTAL ASSEMBLIES (A Harkening Nose)

Alas, what with the miserable weather and the decisive duo football challenges—Did the 49ers play as if they actually wanted to lose?—attendance at the general meetings for BASH was dismal. Since the information at both meetings was basically the same, the best thing to do is capsule all that was presented, toss it out to the public, and hope many will want to participate.

What is needed most immediately are people with competent knowledge of carpentry and plumbing. There are enough bodies who know what is to be done, but there are too few bodies who actually know how to do it correctly. It's nice to volunteer to do something, and do it; but it's to no avail when someone has to come back and re-do it correctly. Also, if you have any contact

sources for scaffolding, please act now. It is desperately needed for the repair and painting of the exteriors of these first two houses. (George, are you paying attention about the carpentry?)

No volunteers will be turned away, but it's best to check with the coordinators before showing up to work. Those in charge (in order of contacting) are Mikki (536-9229), Paul M., Val, and Chuckles. Those who have previously signed up are preferred, because it will eliminate duplication of objectives—and, it's not too late to sign up!

The working schedule allows for seven days a week, from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., and absolutely no drinking or drugs are allowed. If you have a few pops before showing up, you will be asked to leave. Any and all crafts are needed, but good, old-fashioned muscle power is going to be useful too.

Monday, Feb. 1, is scheduled for the opening of the first house, with an open house one week prior by invitation only. Tuesday, March 1, is the planned opening of the second house. Friday, April 1, is earmarked for the third house, in Hayward.

All types of furnishings are needed, especially room-sized rugs. Trucks are also essential right away. If you have one, and are willing to pick-up and deliver, contact Mikki or Chuck as soon as possible.

Once the houses are opened, the obligation won't cease. Volunteers will be needed for weekly cleaning, weekly washing, gardening, and cooks to prepare either/or/and breakfast, lunch, and dinner. A series of monthly food drives is scheduled to keep the larders full for the residents.

No merchandise donations will be refused, but Mama Chuckles wants it made perfectly clear that it won't necessarily be used in the houses due to duplications of donations. However, the planned—well actually it's beyond the planning stages—Thrift Center will be selling the merchandise to support the houses. It is hoped that the



A portion of the presents and food delivered for Christmas

(Photo: D. Jeans)

residents will be able to do the managing and working in the thrift shop.

The bottom lines are these: It's time to forget any and all disagreements between different individuals or factions. It's time to bury egos and attitudes. Dependability is an absolute necessity. Don't commit if you can't do it. Lives are at stake.

POTPOURRI (A Pasticcio Nose)

There has been a date and location change for the Bi-Annual Miss \$1.98 Beauty Pageant. It now will be held on Sunday, Feb. 7, at the Bench & Bar, at 6 p.m. And yes, Joanna Caron will once again be mistress—of ceremonies!

The Third Annual "Barbecue: Of, By, and For the People" will be on Sunday, Aug. 7, on the grounds of Fairmont Hospital. All indications are that it will be bigger and better than ever before. You can count on it.

Coming up this summer, look forward for the latest crazes to appear at Paradise. One is some-

thing called "Chicken Shit" (both literally and figuratively!), and another is called "Buns Contest." Yet another one is a pool game called "Blackout." Yes, the proceeds will go to various charities.

Plans are afoot—or is that ahead?—for several "Stitch & Bitch" parties, making spreads and quilts for BASH. Save all those scraps from your years of drag. They just might be put to a better use.

I've heard of dropping pins, but this is ridiculous! Marge was back in the hospital because the pin in her broken arm dropped! (Too much action over the holidays?) Perhaps this time the doctors should use the old fashioned rivets.

Hold onto your hats—or whatever! Picture, if you will, an 80-foot Christmas tree floating upright on Lake Merritt, covered with 100,000 white lights. The lights will be "sold" for ten bucks each, so you can figure the proceeds. One resident, whose apartment faces Lake Merritt, has already promised to purchase

100 of the babies? This "Tree of Hope" could very well end up in the Guinness Book of World Records!

Necessity is the mother of strange bedfellows. I'll smile about that tonight, but not tomorrow morning!

Love, Nez

Baths To Require Condom Use

SEATTLE—Seattle bath-houses have stepped up their efforts to combat the spread of AIDS by requiring each patron to sign a statement that he will use condoms in oral and anal sex. Baths owners are hoping that that and education materials available will create peer pressure to engage in safer sex and to reject those who do not do so.

As for complaints from patrons about the new policy, "I tell people to wake up. We're dealing with a life-and-death situation and the only way that the situation can be dealt with is by changing one's habits," said Larry Woelich, of Club Seattle Baths.

Woelich said that those not keeping to the new policy by using condoms will be asked to leave the bathhouse.

—Seattle Gay News

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Illustration by Laura H. Young

4-Day AIDS Training Planned In Contra Costa

The Contra Costa County AIDS Task Force recently announced the dates for its next training seminar for new volunteer recruits: Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 6-7. The four-day training is an all-inclusive tutorial on AIDS and exercises on grief, death and dying and counseling AIDS patients and their families.

People who are interested in applying to work as a Task Force volunteer should call the Task Force at (415) 646-2525 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. or write CCCATF, 1111 Ward St., Room 313, Martinez, CA 94553.

Training of new volunteers is now scheduled for four times a year, a schedule now necessary to meet the demand for peer counselors and for people to serve on resource, legislative and education committees.

Task Force volunteers now number over 150, serving over 60 AIDS patients in Contra Costa County.

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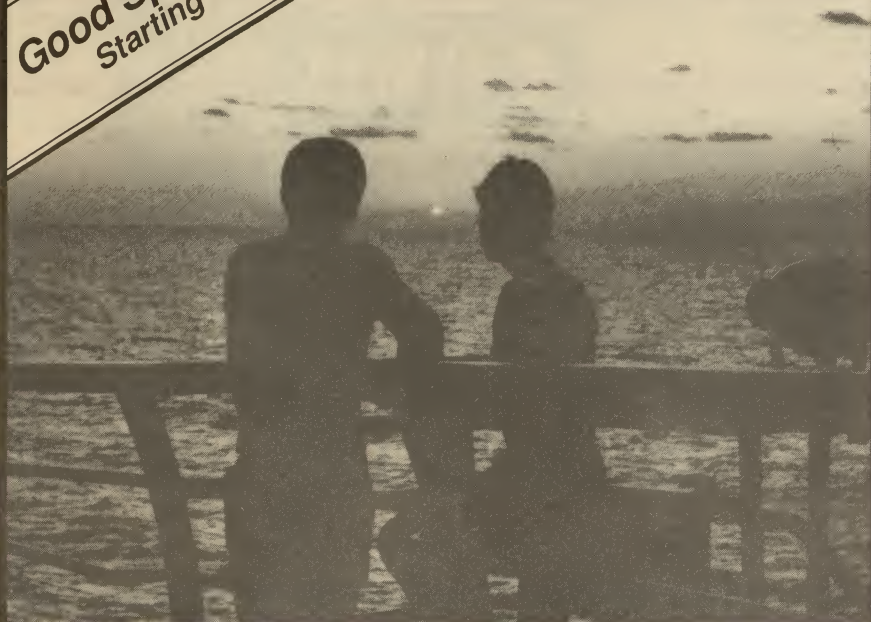
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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Quisbies

Leland Moss Builds On *The AIDS Show* To Bring Catharsis to Theatre Rhino

by Wendell Ricketts

More than a century ago Lewis Carroll wrote a story about a little girl named Alice who one day tumbled down a rabbit hole. Her fall led her to visit a great many odd places and to meet rather a large number of strange creatures. Yet by the end of Alice's adventures, there is no suggestion that her stay in Wonderland has transformed her, nor that she expected it to. She doesn't decide, as does Dorothy Gale at the end of her journey through the Land of Oz, that there is no place like home. In short, Alice seeks no moral in what has happened to her. She simply wakes up and runs off to tea, thinking to herself what an extraordinary dream she has had.

In *Wizard*, Dorothy spends most of her time trying to get back home; Alice's adventure consumes her. She is whisked suddenly and unexpectedly from one venue to another. And, as she tells the Cheshire Cat, she doesn't much care where she goes, so long as it's somewhere. ("In that case," advises the Cat, "it doesn't matter which way you walk.") Yet in both stories, physical travel is a metaphor for a journey through interior spaces.

Ordinarily, it wouldn't occur to me to make a comparison such as this. But Leland Moss' new play, *Quisbies*, which premieres Jan. 16 at Theatre Rhinoceros, opens

with a passage from *Alice in Wonderland*, and so I got to thinking. Not accidentally, *Quisbies* closes with a question; and on rereading *Alice* I found Alice asked a great many questions, and many were asked of her, but mostly they had no concrete answers.

It's worth all this silliness about the children's stories, you see, because one gets rather used to thinking of *The Wizard of Oz* or, anyway, of the Judy Garland version, as the great cultural myth of the gay experience, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" having emerged as the "We Shall Overcome" of the everyday homosexual. But *Wizard* is all about dreaming; *Alice* is about coping with what is put before you.

Quisbies, the fourth in what has been called Theatre Rhinoceros' "cycle" of plays about AIDS, is Leland Moss' reverent exploration of the ways in which ordinary lives are altered by the harsh realities of our times.

The *Quisbies* of Moss' play are the "Quisby Sybaritic Community," a graduate-school private society, who are reunited, more than ten years after graduation, by the death of one of their members. For the *Quisbies*, all things had once seemed possible. Now, as they gather to mourn their



Mikael Duden (l.) is consoled by Timothy Holten in *Quisbies* (Photo: Savage Photography)

friend, the differences between the futures they envisioned and the lives they have actually led become starkly visible. Where is the youthful promise, the passion and creative strength that once made them *Quisbies*? Gone, for some of them, or perhaps only dormant, but in all events profoundly touched by AIDS, aging, and assimilation, the three A's of life in the '80s.

Notes Moss, "The whole question of AIDS dominates my life and the lives of my friends. And that sickeningly affects the choices we make. You may not have the opportunity to reverse the decisions that you come to now, or to try something new. I wanted to write about what it was like for people to live under that invisible axe."

For two of the *Quisbies*, Michael and Angela, the reunion exposes the friction inherent in the disparate directions their lives have taken. Michael, the author of several "literate, decidedly gay novels," refuses to write for what his lover keeps terming a "wider" audience. Angela—beautiful, black, and successful in her New York world of screenwriters and film people—wants Michael to stop "limiting" himself. Won't he fly out with her to meet some of her contacts in "the industry"? But Michael declines; he's happy living in San Francisco and writing about what he knows. Inevitably, their

own life. He recalls, "In the late '70s I was involved with a man who was very, very political. And I remember thinking, 'When is this queen going to get over this? Enough already! We've got our rights. Let's just go on.' So I never in a million years would have imagined that one of the major accomplishments of my life would be to do a piece about AIDS or a piece about gay identity. And yet, it is the most important thing I ever did. And it has confirmed my own belief in standing up and speaking out."

For Michael, it is the same. "I chronicle the lives of people I love," he admonishes Angela. "And if years from now, someone can read one of my 'slim volumes of poetic prose' and get a tiny glimpse of what it was like to live in this city, at this time, as a proud gay man, then I will have succeeded."

Quisbies, then, is an effort both to forge and to correct the historical record. Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic revisionists have been at work to discredit and to disavow the gay culture of the '70s, blaming it for everything from lax morals to bankrupt politics to, ultimately, AIDS itself. Declares Moss, "My belief is that gay people have always pointed the way, have always been in the vanguard of revolution. And in the '70s it was a sexual revolution. I don't feel like apologizing for that. It was kind of a way to lose yourself. And it was a fun way, and we did it together. We didn't isolate ourselves from one another. It was very life-affirming, powerful,"

(Continued on page 53)



Michelle Simon (top) and Gina Graziano in *Quisbies* (Photo: Savage Photography)



Leland Moss (l.), the author of *Quisbies*, with Director Barbara Daoust (Photo: Savage Photography)

Homophobia Was Big In '87

by Steve Warren

PART TWO

Homophobia, sometimes played for laughs but only rarely challenged, was rampant in the movies of 1987, especially American ones.

In *La Bamba* a drunken Esai Morales warned his brother, Lou Diamond Phillips as Ritchie Valens, as he climbed into bed, "You better keep your ass to the wall because I'm so messed up I might take you for Rosie." Nothing happened, of course, as nothing happened to Steve Martin and John Candy in *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, but the scene where they woke up in bed together was hilarious for showing how afraid some straight men are of any hint of homosexuality.

Similarly, on a teenage level, in *Hiding Out*, Jon Cryer innocently approached Keith Coogan in the boys' room after a sexuality class in which they heard, "Every one of us has at some time experienced feelings all along this [sexual] spectrum, including homosexuality." Mistaking Cryer's motives Coogan protested he was "way the fuck over there" on the spectrum.

Teen homophobia was noted in at least two other films, *Russkies* was the worst since *Heaven Help Us* for having kids put each other down with "homo" and variations thereof. It was a story of human understanding, but the



Craig Russell as Tina Turner in *Too Outrageous!*

ultimate message was that even though godless commies aren't so bad, it's still okay to hate fags. In *Adventures in Babysitting* a 15-year-old (Coogan again) teased his little sister by insulting her favorite superhero: "Thor is a

homo." There was a happy ending, though, with Coogan and his buddy, Anthony Rapp, having a pajama party—with only one pair of pajamas between them.

The bouncer at an Irish club in

No Surrender spouted so much homophobic drivel you knew you were in for a surprise about him. Among the club's entertainers was a gay comedian who had a boyfriend in evidence. The salesmen's banter in *Tin Men* included a few unpleasant remarks about our kind. In *Kangaroo* Judy Davis wished her husband (Colin Friels) would have an affair with another woman instead of "searching for these David-and-Jonathan relationships with men."

You could cut the homophobia with a knife in Norman Mailer's *Tough Guys Don't Dance*, but the film was so bad you couldn't tell if Mailer was serious. Wings Hauser, the homophobic police chief of Provincetown(!), said, "I'd like to kill homos." Ryan O'Neal ("I did my three years in the slammer standin' up. Nobody made a punk out of me") screwed Frances Fisher in front of her companion, "flaming queen" Patrick Sullivan.

LESBOPHOBIA

Lesbophobia was expressed in *Lethal Weapon* when Mel Gibson said the thought of two women in bed was "disgusting." In *The Good Father* Anthony Hopkins encouraged Jim Broadbent, whose wife had left him for another woman, to fight for custody of their children. This British film was told from the man's viewpoint, but took the woman's side.

Robert Altman let us have it with both barrels. In *O.C. and Stiggs*, made in 1985 but given token pre-video release in 1987, the teenaged title characters were like a black-comic Leopold and Loeb. They weren't supposed to be gay, but their flamboyant teacher, Louis Nye, was. At least when they caught him in public with his lover he had the balls to stand up to them.

In *Beyond Therapy*, bisexual Jeff Goldblum pursued homophobic Julie Hagerty while his lover, Christopher Guest, kept house. There were other gay characters, and most of the laughs were at our expense. Altman worked with Christopher Durang to adapt the latter's play. Travesty is too nice a word for the outcome.

It's generally accepted that the Robert Walker character in Alfred Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train* was meant to be gay. Of the year's two virtual remakes of that classic, *Throw Momma from the Train* ignored the gay aspect but *Best Seller* didn't. James Woods played the same sort of ingratia-

ting sociopath as Walker, in this case trying to seduce Brian Dennehy into getting along with his scheme. The bedroom scene in which Woods and Dennehy caressed each other menacingly with guns was one of the year's most homoerotic.

Peter MacNicol asked Burt Reynolds to teach him to be more macho in *Heat*, leading to a classical Greek relationship in all but the sexual aspect. Prince butched it up a little in *Sign O' the Times*—at least his guitar didn't lisp—but he showed the same misogyny as in *Purple Rain*. His women were either whores, back-up singers or go-go dancers, except drummer Sheila E. who, his purple prissiness allowed, was "not bad—for a girl."

Who's That Girl had Shelly Lipkin as a flaming jewelry salesman in one scene, but two cops (Robert Swan, Drew Pillsbury) featured throughout turned out to be gay in a surprise ending.

Perhaps Dr. Ruth Westheimer, who appeared in *One Woman or Two*, could explain why the sweat-shirt Sigourney Weaver gave lover-to-be Gerard Depardieu in that film contained a familiar gay cartoon.

WOODY AND GAYS

Woody Allen created on of his rare gay characters for *Radio Days*, a young man (Robert Joy) spinster Dianne Wiest had a crush on. Another gay guy hit on Shelley Long in *Outrageous Fortune*, but they were in the same acting class and he wanted to do research for heterosexual roles.

Lesbians got a workout as prostitutes in *Working Girls* and *Broken Mirrors*. Louise Smith was the leading character in the former, in which Lizzie Borden showed how dull the job really is. The latter, from The Netherlands' Marleen Gorris, was heavier on female bonding throughout but saved its lesbian relationship for a surprise ending.

The working girls in Terry Jones' comedy *Personal Services* were presumably heterosexual, although their maid (Danny Schiller) was a hermaphrodite and a lot of their male clients (including Alec McCowen) liked to dress in women's clothes. Perhaps the most quoted line was "B.C.S.D.," which stood for "Big Car, Small Dick."

There was nothing gay about *Nadine*, but a promotional junket gave me the chance to interview its director, Robert Benton, and

(Continued on page 28)

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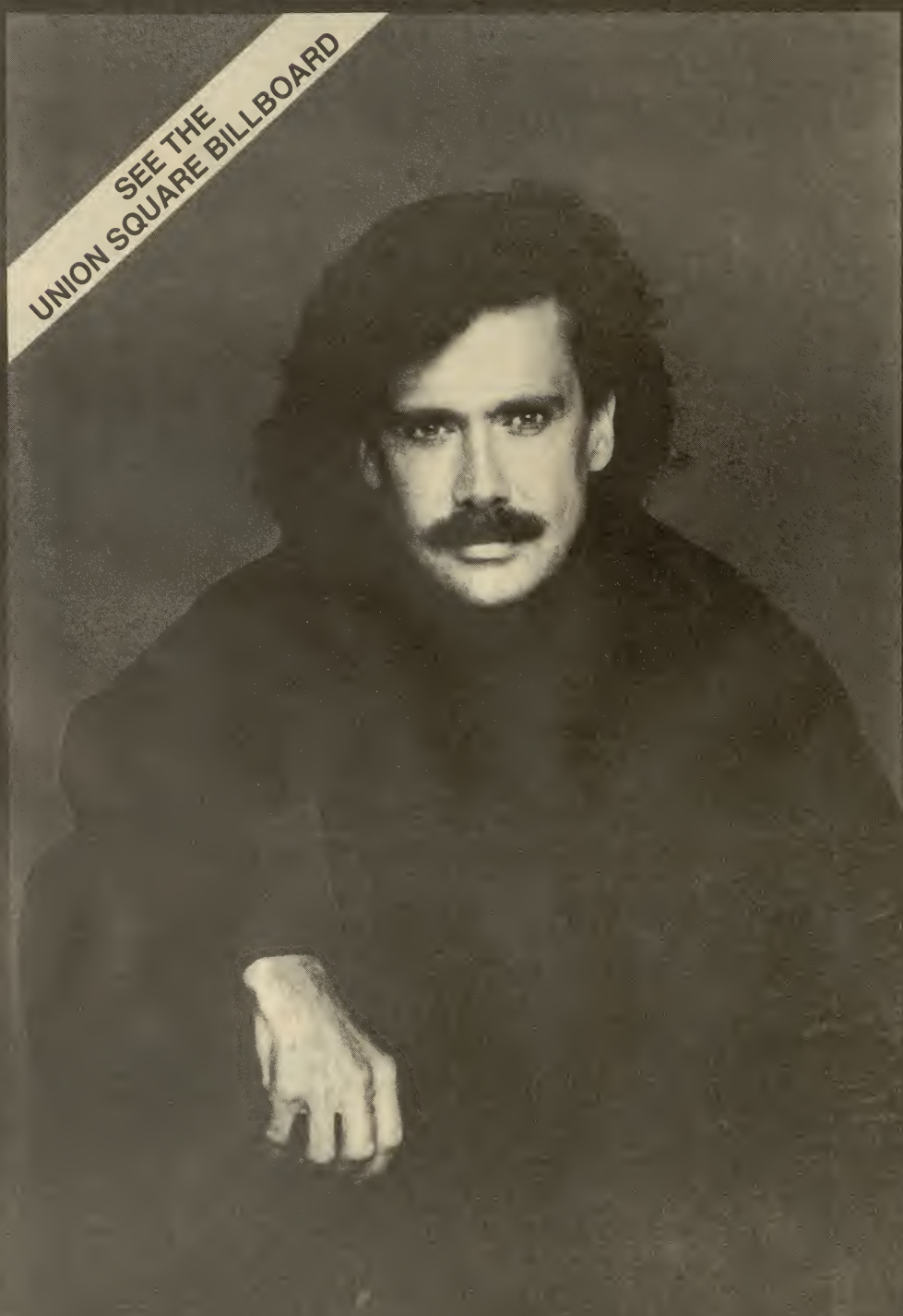
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Movies

(Continued from page 26)

obtain his endorsement for legalizing same-sex marriages. "Sure! I think marriage is a terrific state no matter who does it," said the pro-matrimony filmmaker best known for his story of divorce, *Kramer vs. Kramer*.

Canada gave us a gay hero in *Pouvoir Intime* (*Blind Trust*), a caper thriller by Yves Simoneau in which a gay guard (Robert Gravel) defended a hijacked armored van from the inside, and his lover was brought in to end the siege.

Pedro Almodovar, one of Spain's leading openly gay directors (and how many of America's can you name?), was represented by two films. *Law of Desire* was a melodramatic comedy about a

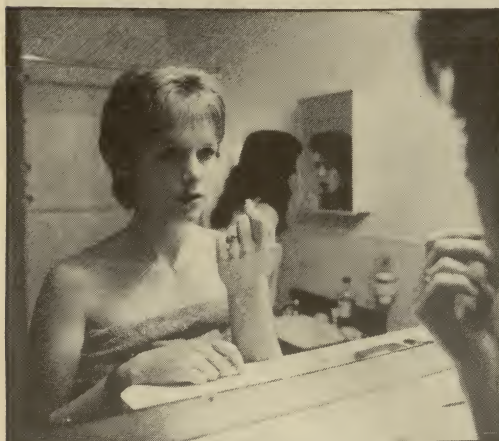
gay romantic triangle and the main character's transsexual sister (Carmen Maura) who had a lesbian lover (played by male transvestite Bibi Andersen). Less gay—and less widely shown—was Almodovar's *Matador*.

Antony Sher, one of England's leading openly gay actors (and how many of America's can you name?), played a pre-op transsexual in the black comedy *Shadey*. The plot was less about his sexuality than his ability to project psychic images onto film at great distances.

In a better British comedy, Bruce Robinson's *Withnail and I*, the title characters were roommates but not lovers, perhaps not even gay, but there was no question about Withnail's uncle Monty (Richard Griffiths), an old auntie. He was an object of ridicule, but also of sympathy.



Dianne Wiest and Robert Joy in Wood Allen's *Radio Days*



Louise Smith gets ready in *Working Girls* (Photo: N. Goldin)

Brazil's version of *The Threepenny Opera*, *Opera do Malandro* featured a drag queen (J.C. Violla) as one of the contenders for the body of Max/Mack the Knife. Opera director Etienne Glaser wasn't gay-identified in *The Mozart Brothers*, but Mozart's ghost hung around to give him an occasional kiss for encouragement and his ex-wife had a backstage lesbian interlude in the Swedish comedy.

AIDS was less in evidence on screen in 1987 than you might have expected. It was heavily-handedly worked into *Too Outrageous!*, Dick Benner and Craig Russell's disappointing sequel to their sleeper hit of a decade ago about the friendship of a female impersonator and a

schizophrenic woman. Rosa Von Praunheim's *A Virus Knows No Morals* was a black comic satire about the health crisis that no nongay person—not even Eddie Murphy—would have dared.

AIDS-related videos that received some theatrical play were Marc Huestis' *Chuck Solomon: Coming of Age*, a record of the late San Francisco actor-director's 40th birthday party; Peter Wells and Stewart Main's *A Death in the Family* from New Zealand, about friends gathering to ease a PWA's passing; and *I'm Still Alive*, a German telefilm about Peter Sieglar's homecoming to tell his family and friends about his disease. Sieglar has survived to complete a sequel.

HEAVEN-LY?

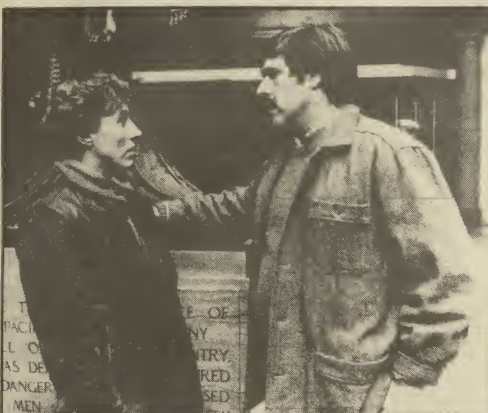
One of four Catholics in purgatory in *Impure Thoughts* was gay. He was also a hedonistic, alcoholic atheist who had committed suicide, so he didn't have to spend as much time as some of the others wondering why he was there. Meanwhile in *Heaven*, Diane Keaton made fools of people who shared their thoughts on the afterlife with her documen-

tary camera. One of her less sympathetic victims was a preacher who railed about earthly concerns, including "Fag Day" with a parade of "giant phallics."

Another documentary, *Rate It X*, was made by two lesbians, Lucy Winer and Paula de Koenigsberg. Their study of sexism in America included the interesting comment from an elderly American Legionnaire that while men never wanted their boys to be sissies, "if a girl was a tomboy it made her father proud." Senior citizens say the darndest things!

The year's most unusual movie was yet another documentary, *Broken Noses*, which showed what a director (Bruce Weber) with, shall we say a gay sensibility, can get a nongay exhibitionist (Andy Minsker) and some boys (aged 10-16) to do for money. It was as close to kiddie porn as you can legally get these days.

Do you remember when it would have been hard to write a whole paragraph about the lesbian and gay images in the movies of a particular year? This article would have been shorter if we'd only covered films that ignored us in 1987.



Marie Tifo (l.) and Pierre Curzi in *Pouvoir Intime*

Posters, Photos Sought For Cable Car Awards

Outstanding posters and photos are being sought by the Visual Arts Committee of the Cable Car Awards.

The 1988 Cable Car Awards will be presented Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Giftcenter.

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...And the Carringtons Played On

by Will Snyder

The rumors circulating out of New York indicate that ABC-TV plans on renewing its long-running television series, *Dynasty*, for yet another season next fall. This kind of television scheduling only points out why ABC is such an also-ran in the ratings race.

Dynasty is awful. More than anything else, it is unbelievable that so many things could happen to one family. If I were a Carrington, I just don't know if being rich would be worth having to put up with assassination plots every other week, scheming mothers, fathers who commit murder, etc.

Some people have felt the ridiculous nature of the scripts is what has helped *Dynasty* over the years. But just the same, anyone with a smidgen of education should have felt insulted by the manipulation of the scriptwriters during the famous Moldavian wedding sequence in 1985. Many folks were, indeed, surprised when informed that (a) there really is a Moldavia, but (b) it is not a Ruritania-type kingdom nestled away in a corner of Europe better suited for Ronald Colman.

When some folks heard that Moldavia is a part of the Soviet Union and has been chucked back and forth between the Russians and the Romanians for years, they were taken aback.

COMMENTARY

Others simply shrugged, allowing for yet more distortion of history by Hollywood.

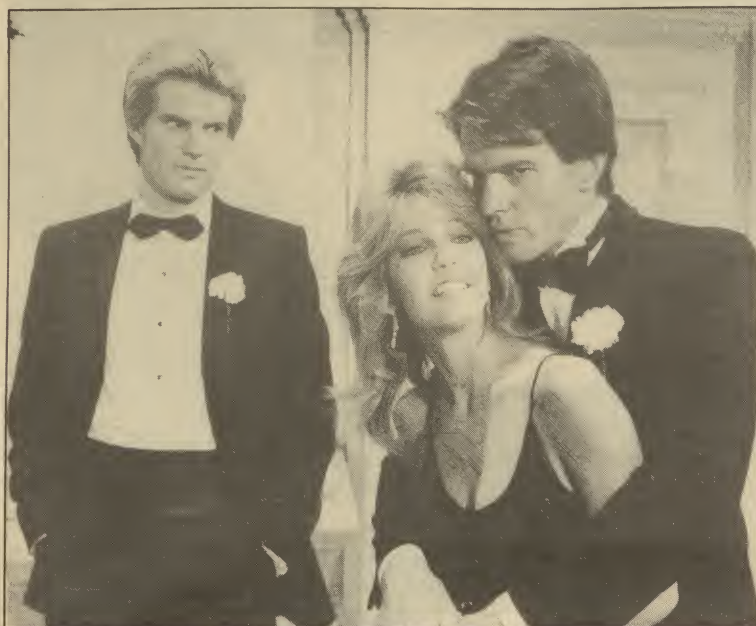
From a gay perspective, there does seem to be disgust with the character of Steven Carrington. Steven is, in a word, boring.

There was a time when the gay bars filled, it seemed, to capacity for the weekly showings of *Dynasty*. The Moldavian wedding night, for example, had a bar like Moby Dick's feeling like you were in a can of sardines.

The crowds are still better than average. But that doesn't say much for a show that used to fight for a No. 1 television ranking.

There was a spark of hope when gay Steven was given Blake's professional football team (and what would some old-line National Football League owners say about *that!*) and began grooming cute Josh Harris as his top quarterback. There was some electricity in their scenes.

But then Josh made it quite clear what he felt about *that* lifestyle as well as what he felt about Sammi Jo. So, get back into your corner, or closet, Steven.



Will Steven Carrington (l.) ever get to let go of his guilt and have fun on *Dynasty*?

Nothing is happening with Steven. His character is about as exciting as a documentary about white bread. He needs a boy friend.

So come on Shapiros, get some guts. Get him a boy friend. And for God's sake, let him kiss the guy. The hets shouldn't be the only ones having the fun. ●

Good Reason For P.A.N.I.C.

by Steve Warren

PA.N.I.C. In Griffith Park was developed for the fight against Proposition 64. With the Son of 64 breathing down our necks it's come back in style all too soon. The videotape of this Los Angeles stage presentation will air in two parts on *Frameline Presents* on cable channel 25, tonight and Jan. 28 at 8 p.m.

David Reid's play is set in a hypothetical California after the passage of Prop. 64. (A postscript tells us the bill was defeated by more than two to one, but the play was performed in the weeks before the 1986 election.) People in high-risk groups are rounded up by police and sent to temporary detention camps for mandatory blood tests. One of these camps is on the site of former cruising grounds in L.A.'s Griffith Park.

Those who test positive are transferred to permanent camps, while the negatives are apparently released after two tests, despite talk of using the camps to eliminate "undesirables."

The five characters—four gay men and a homophobic, drug-using musician—form a limited (e.g., all white) but dramatically effective cross-section: Craig (Michael Alden) the guppie, Dean (Jason Stuart) the queen, Randy (John Jackson) the radical, and Cameron (Hank Stratton) the cute, clean-cut kid.

Craig and Dean have been lovers, but Craig could never be monogamous. Dean is insecure, bitchy, jealous, and Jewish—our comic relief, in other words. (The occasional laughter of a live audience is annoying, sometimes coming in the wrong places.) The attraction between Craig and Cameron is immediate.

Randy, a Vietnam vet who's also a burned-out hippie (think "Dennis Hopper"), is stuck with the overt "message" speeches: "(We're here because) too many faggots are too busy doin' their dirties to figure out how the game is played... The most votes win, and we lost."

Not a lot happens within the body of the play, which is mostly devoted to talk about how they got there and speculation about the future. There are supposedly 80,000 prisoners in the camp, but the authorities are the only presence we're aware of aside from the five characters onstage.

While history won't record it as one of the great dramas of the '80s, *P.A.N.I.C. in Griffith Park* is unusually polished for the timely agitprop piece it is. The acting is good under Lee Garlington's direction, with Stuart and Quattro as obnoxious as their real-life equivalents. Two monolithic tents are a bit too dominant on Ron Oates' otherwise effective, outdoory set, but Kathi O'Donohue's lighting makes it hard to keep track of the time of day.

As the play reminds us, it hasn't been that long since Japanese-Americans were torn from their families and imprisoned in camps in this very state, so we can't say "It can't happen here" anymore than we can say "It can't happen again."

As a cautionary tale, *P.A.N.I.C. in Griffith Park* should be much in demand this year, both on videotape and as a live production. Catch the *Frameline* showing so you can think about ways of getting it seen by the people who need to see it.

Along with the first act of the play on tonight's telecast are a complementary collage of scare headlines, broadcast excerpts, and two positive songs in Barbara Hammer's *Snow Job: The Media Hysteria of AIDS*; and an attractive new-age experimental film, *Illegal Tender* by England's Paul Bettell.

Frameline Presents is produced by Daniel Mangin for *Frameline*, which presents the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival every June. Executive Director Michael Lumpkin will attend the Berlin Film Festival next month in his ongoing search for new films and videos. ●

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'Mona Rogers In Person' At Climate

San Francisco's favorite intellectual burlesque queen, Mona Rogers, makes her triumphant return to Climate, 252 Ninth St., opening Thursday, Jan. 21 with a benefit for AIDS charities. Award-winning actress Helen Shumaker stars in *Mona Rogers In Person*, an incendiary one-woman performance written and directed by the late Philip-Dimitri Galas.

This return engagement at Climate will run Thursday to Saturday at 8 p.m. with late shows Saturdays at 10 p.m. through Feb. 14. The run will close with a special LUV Weekend Feb. 11-14, including "photo opportunities" with Mona and an added Valentine's Day show on Sunday, Feb. 14. Tickets are \$9 and \$11, available at STBS/Union Square and the Climate box office, 252 Ninth Street. For more information, call 626-9196.

Shumaker began working with Philip-Dimitri Galas as his co-performer in 1981 and has been featured in numerous productions of his work, appearing in New York, Hollywood, San Francisco, San Diego and Canada.



Helen Shumaker as Mona Rogers

Club St. John Adds Cafe, Tea Dances

by Joseph W. Bean

Club St. John, San Jose's biggest and busiest gay club, is on the grow. The popular dance bar and piano lounge, which is just six months old this Saturday, is adding a patio cafe and a continuing series of Sunday tea dances. The cafe is set to open the first week of February. The tea dances started last weekend.

The first four Club St. John tea dances—Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 31—are being co-hosted by comic Danny Williams and selected employees of the club. The music for the dances is a live-DJ mix of Top 40 tunes with some older and less known records.

"These dances," says cafe manager Lloyd Street, "are our chance to give gay groups an opportunity to raise some revenues." BAY MEC, the Santa Cruz AIDS Foundation, Necessities & More, ELLIPSE, and at least one gay group at Stanford are already taking advantage of Club St.

John's fundraising opportunity.

"The way the charitable aspect of the admission plan works is quite unusual," Street added. "A non-benefit ticket for a tea dance costs \$2. On the other hand, if you arrive with a discount card issued through a participating gay group, you pay only \$1. And the dollar goes directly to the organization that issued the discount card."

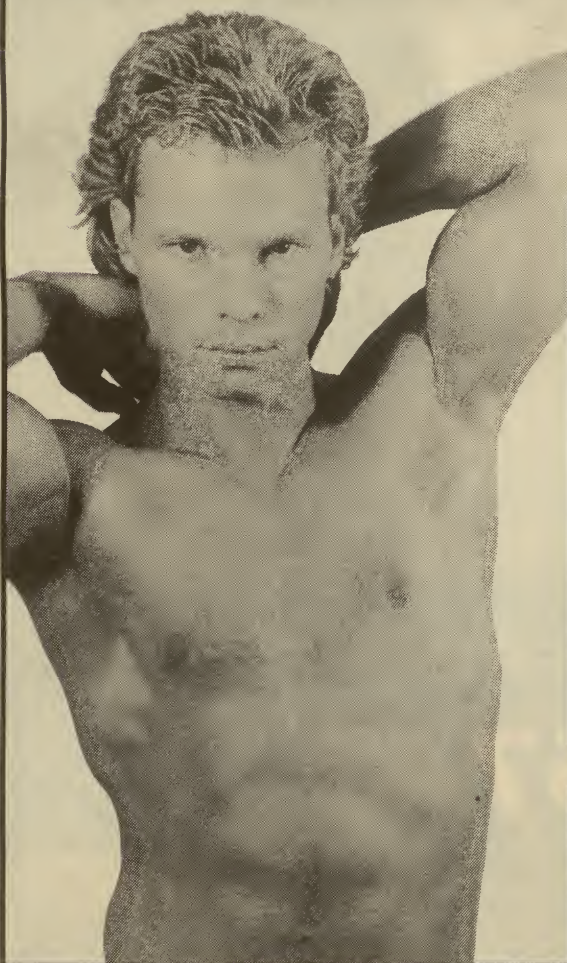
A dollar a head may not seem like a very big bite to take out of anyone's budgetary needs, but—as everyone is learning to say with regard to AZT funding—every penny counts. And, since each organization can become involved or not at its own discretion, and become as active as its members choose in supporting the Club St. John dances, the bucks could stack up pretty quickly for groups that really promote the idea. Besides, the tea dances, including their benefit discount system, are meant to continue indefinitely.

Non-benefit discount cards are also issued at the Club St. John bar and lounge. The bar is open Monday through Saturday, from 5 p.m. - 1:30 a.m., with dancing starting at 9 p.m. The piano lounge, where Dean Yoder, Carolyn Clarke, and Manny Saiz split up the hours at the keyboard, is open from 8 p.m. - 1 a.m., Wednesday through Sunday. And, after the tea dance each Sunday, the bar and dance floor at Club St. John remains open until 1:30 a.m.

Once it opens, the patio cafe will serve lunch Monday through Friday and brunch on Sunday.

Club St. John is located at 171 W. St. John, on the corner of San Pedro and St. John.

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Mark Your Calendar!

The "cabaret community" has given strong support for people with AIDS since that condition was first identified a decade ago. In 1988, much of that support will be focused in the front lounge of The Galleon Bar & Restaurant from 9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

Cabaret Gold Award winner Mikio Hirata will be the singing host and cocktail server, and Donald Eldon Wescoat, one of the city's top pianist/accompanists, will be in residence to perform with many of our city's best vocalists. Musicians and comedians will also join in force.

Performers are coming out Tuesdays for this "Open Mike for Open Hand" to help feed people with AIDS who are now confined to their homes and less able to fend for themselves. Ruth Brinker, founder/director of Project Open Hand, is able to provide a hot dinner and a bag lunch to a person with AIDS for just \$5. We invite you to join with us in helping her to provide more of them.

Drop in Tuesday evenings to enjoy a great array of San Francisco's top talents, and to drop a few dollars in the jar for Open Hand. This series has been announced for the month of January—but with your cooperation and support The Galleon would like to keep it going all year long. Mark your calendar!

Playwright Hopes His Time Has Come

by Joseph W. Bean

Dan Curzon's name appears to blink in and out on the gay arts scene. Over the past decade, his books and plays have shown up over and over, each time seeming to be treated as if they were the work of a new talent, a complete unknown.

Maybe his newest play, *My Unknown Son*, is going to establish his name once and for all in the minds of gay theatre fans. And, maybe his new book, *Curzon in Love*, having the author's name right in the title, will give him some sort of lasting existence in the minds of novel readers. Time will tell.

My Unknown Son, which was put through its paces in Theatre Rhinoceros' Playwright's Workshop last year is now being prepared for a Midtown—but Off-Broadway—run in New York. The play is a dual-storyline piece in which a man who is writing a book about the history of the capital-T Theatre is also considering fathering a child for a lesbian couple. In the theatre of his mind, the scene for storyline number two, he meets his possible offspring in various periods of drama history.

The son's first appearance, apart from his being a doll in the opening scene, is in the style of Greek Tragedy. Echoes of Oedipus ring loudly. Then he appears again as something like Bottom, in the style of a Shakespearean comedy. Next he turns up as a foppish figure in an Oscar Wilde-like fluff. And, finally, he meets his potential father in a modern dramatic setting, a take-off on Sam Shepard.

In every case, to use Curzon's own words, "the father gets rid of the son." But, the resolution is satisfying: The father sees that the monster-sons are projections of his own weaknesses. So, when he is ready for the real thing, he is able to imagine an "okay, regular guy" as his son.

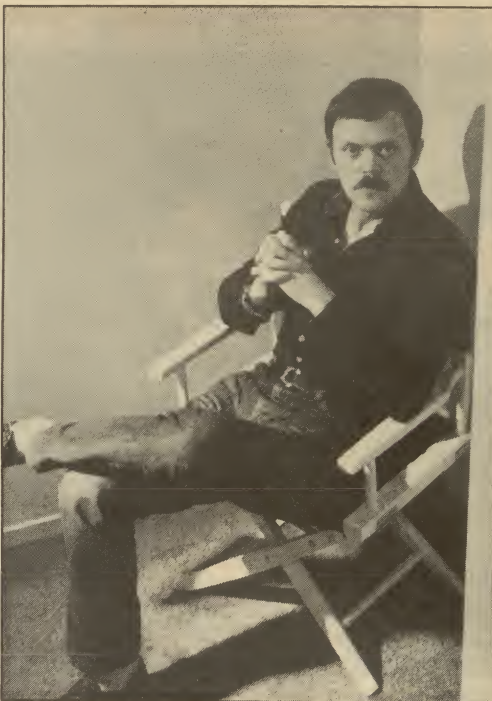
HOORAY FOR HOT SUMMERS

The play is obviously complex. So, after the workshop readings at Rhino, Curzon took his script to one of the most prestigious possible workshops for unproduced plays to give it another workout. At the West Coast Playwright's Festival in Marin, the script went through what turned out to be final major revisions. Sal Trapini, a New York director saw and worked on the play in Marin, and it was he who recommended that The Circle Lab in New York consider a production.

"Thank God for New York's hot summers," Curzon says. If it hadn't been for the discomforts of the Manhattan summer, Trapini would never have been in Marin. And, as Curzon sees it, New York's attention is very important to a playwright. "You can do something in San Francisco," Curzon says, "and get no attention. Then you do the same thing in New York and the right people will see it. It matters! The stakes there are so much higher."

Circle Lab did a five-performance run of *My Unknown Son* which was very successful. "There were still a few minor changes that I made then," Curzon says, remembering that it was only a matter of "a couple of lines that an actor had trouble with."

During the Circle Lab run, "Son" was seen by several of



Author Daniel Curzon

(Photo: Wolfgang)

the "right people," with the "right results." Somehow, linked up from referral to referral, Martin Kaufman heard about the play. (Yes, boys and girls, this seems to be how theatre works!) Now, supposing the contracts can be worked out, and Curzon knows they can, the play will run either last or next to last in the Kaufman Theatre's season, meaning a February or March date in 1988.

"It's better to be last," Curzon says, "because then it can be an open-minded run, you can extend if you have the audiences." But that's not the end of the story. Curzon is already thinking of the further possibilities: Moving up to an official Broadway theatre. "We might be able to do that," he says, adding that he wonders what the final nomination dates for Pulitzer Prizes are. It would be tempting to think that Curzon is being facetious when he talks about a Broadway run, Obies, Tonies and Pulitzer Prizes, but it would also be grand if he were right. Who knows how seriously he takes it all?

My Unknown Son is Curzon's 17th play. Along the way he has had plays produced all over the place, including one in the old Gay Community Center in 1977, a few months before the same building became the first performing space for Theatre Rhinoceros. (It is now the parking garage for the Symphony and Ballet.) Since then he has had plays done on both the mainstage and in the studio at Rhino, and in a lot of other places, but "Son" is his big hope, his introduction to New York.

A TRILOGY

On the book-writing side of his career, Curzon has had eight novels published so far, including *From Violent Men* which imagined Dan White both gay and dead, before all the stories about him being a closet case surfaced, and long before his suicide. The ninth novel, *Curzon in Love*, is due out in April from Knights Press.

"Love" is a fiction of a sort, trilogy of memories of the author's past lovers. Like "Son," it plays with styles of writing.

full of magic and impossible transformations.

If *My Unknown Son* and *Curzon in Love* finally give Dan Curzon the kind of recognition he believes he has earned, it may look very sudden to a forgetful public. "But it has taken me more than 15 years of hard work," he says, "to get to this point where I might be an overnight success." If the Big One doesn't happen in this cycle, though, Curzon has no intention of giving up.

"After all," he says, "now I have been seen in New York. There

are pluses and minuses for both New York and San Francisco," he added. "The great sin of San Francisco is that political correctness is stressed at the expense of art. And the sin of New York is that they think they are the center of the universe, that nothing worthwhile happens anywhere else."

So, to give himself and his work the best chance of success, Curzon's only hope was to become bi-coastal. He'll find out soon whether this is his time to shine.

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The Right Stuff

A Swedish film entitled *The Mozart Brothers* shows what can happen when a wildly iconoclastic and anti-musical director decides to turn an opera house upside down and inside out in the process of staging a new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. From the beginning movements of the film, the director (who freely admits that he hates opera) proceeds to wreak havoc upon the opera company by threatening its administration, brutalizing Mozart's score, tearing apart the theatre, terrorizing the cast, butchering Lorenzo Da Ponte's libretto, antagonizing the instrumentalists and in the final analysis, thoroughly laying *Don Giovanni* to waste.

When the New York City Opera decided to mount a new production of *The Magic Flute*, it faced a curious challenge. The company already owned an exceptional production designed by Beni Montresor which, although twenty years old, was dearly beloved by its audience. Although Beverly Sills' original hope was to have Maurice Sendak streamline the *Magic Flute* production he designed for the Houston Grand Opera so that she could televise it as part of the PBS network's *Live From Lincoln Center* series, Sendak refused to accept NYCO's proposed adjustments and withdrew from the project.

Sills then turned to Thierry Bosquet (who designed NYCO's handsome new production of



Belmonte (Mark Thomsen), Constanze (Evelyn de la Rosa), Blonde (Jeanine Thames), and Pedrillo (Bonaventura Bottone) try to figure out how to escape from Pasha Selim's harem in Houston Grand Opera's brilliant production of *The Abduction From the Seraglio*

Massenet's *Werther*). Bosquet delivered a *Magic Flute* which was every bit as airy, charming and elegant as Montresor's and, with its multiple scrims and flats, quite easy to move in and out of the New York State Theatre on a repertory basis. Not only are Bosquet's animal costumes absolute-

ly charming, this new production provides a beautiful visual cushion for Mozart's opera.

Much of the production's success is due to the clean and concise staging by Lotfi Mansouri who, in addition to his many guest stints as a stage director, is in charge of the Canadian Opera

Company in Toronto. Throughout the evening, Mansouri kept his cast moving with speed, purpose and communication among its top priorities. He received sturdy support from Sergiu Commissiona in the pit.

Although this production was telecast from Lincoln Center last fall, when I saw it with its second cast, three artists singing lead roles were making their City Opera debuts. Tenor Randall Outland offered a tall and sensitive Tamino; soprano Valerie Girard was a physically and vocally radiant Pamina. Coloratura Virginia Sublett was a formidable Queen of the Night.

I was thoroughly enchanted by Jan Opalach's charming Papageno, which was magnificently sung and acted. John Lankston's reliable Monostatos, Michele McBride's Papagena and Gregory Stapp's resonant Sarastro rounded out the excellent cast.

Meanwhile, down in Houston, there were moments when Peter Mark Schifter's approach to *The Abduction From the Seraglio* was so wonderfully crazy that I couldn't believe this was the same Mozart opera I've grown familiar with over the past twenty years. The performance I attended, which took place in the Wortham Center's superb new 1,100-seat Cullen Theatre, basked in the auditorium's lush acoustics. Donald Pippin's wonderfully witty translation and a cast of exceptionally talented young artists made this an *Abduction* which will not be forgotten for years to come.

In a move which, no doubt, offended Mozart purists (but sure as hell entertained the rest of us) Peter Mark Schifter transformed *Abduction* into a wild and woolly romp through a 1930's Turkish spectacle movie set, making superb use, particularly in his filmed sequences, of some of Hollywood's hoariest romantic clichés. Although in many ways, Schifter's treatment of *Abduction From the Seraglio* resembled Francesca Zambello's 1930's Hollywood version of Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, both of these talented stage directors deserve kudos for some of the most im-

aginative work done in opera this year.

Once the audience recovered from the initial shock of seeing a show curtain which resembled a lurid Hollywood-style movie poster—which boldly proclaimed that “She was a slave of pagan lust until she was *Yanked From The Harem*: an HGO production”—people quickly realized that this *Abduction* could become a night at the opera which was as clever and crazy as Schifter's recent staging of *Orpheus In The Underworld*.

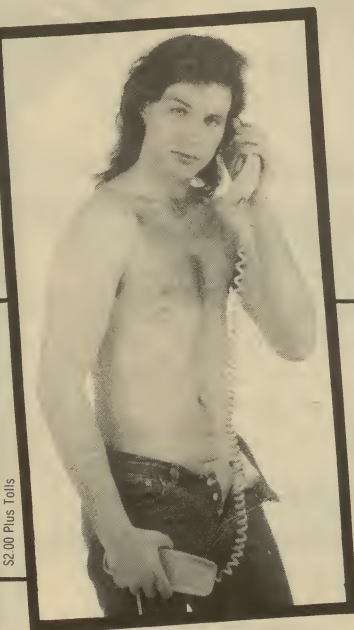
Restructuring the opera so that actors portraying Constanze and Belmonte were offstage lovers (with the man playing Pasha Selim also doubling as the film director who was hot for Constanze's body) Schifter relocated the action of Mozart's opera to Hollywood's film studios at the height of their 1930's insanity. Thus, it came as no surprise to see studio execs playing cards, belly dancers idling around the set, or have Blonde perform a devastating impersonation of Jean Harlow. While, at some performances, audiences were startled to see superstar tenor Plácido Domingo cross the stage dressed in his Radames costume (Verdi's *Aida* was being performed simultaneously in the Wortham Center's Brown Theatre) I found my attention gnawingly distracted by a handsome bodybuilder clad in harem pantaloons whose many charms—including some deliciously sculpted pecs, temptingly erect nipples, invitingly mellow moustache and succulently striated arms—could have held me in willing captivity for a thousand and one Arabian nights.

With so many visual riches being dangled before the audience, it was amazing to discover that this overly busy *Abduction* rested on a theatrical concept which had been solidly thought out from beginning to end. The performance was also blessed with a cast of talented artists who could sing the pantaloons off Mozart's magnificent score.

Soprano Evelyn de la Rosa (who tackled the extremely difficult role of Constanze with exceptional musicianship) accomplished the seemingly impossible feat of making “Marten aller arten” look and sound too easy. Tenor Mark Thomsen's heroic Belmonte and Rod Loomis' stern Pasha Selim offered the kind of rock-solid masculinity one rarely finds in this opera. I particularly enjoyed Bonaventura Bottone's campy Hollywood-cockney Pedrillo and Jeanine Thames' wildly funny “dumb blonde” characterization of Mozart's Blondchen. Special credit goes to John De Main for his lively conducting (made all the more difficult when his tempos had to be coordinated with those preserved on film).

It's been a long time since a production struck me as so theatrically brilliant and musically exciting that I wanted to rush right back into the auditorium and experience it again from start to finish. In fact, I have only two regrets about HGO's radically innovative staging of *The Abduction of Seraglio*. The first is that I did not have enough time to catch a second performance of this wild and wacky production. The second is that I can't conjure up the genie who pimps for that luscious piece of muscle pudding in the harem pantaloons.

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Mr. Marcus

Campaigns, Dances and Coveted Awards

Just when you thought it was safe to lay back and relax, sort things out for the coming months, work on your tax returns, read those piled-up magazines, books and catalogs, or devote more time to your favorite hobby, along comes January and February 1988 and a myriad of events all designed to delight, dizzify, deviate your usual modus operandi, and deflate your wallet.

Tonight, for example, the Mr. January 1989 on the SF-Eagle's Bare Chest Calendar will be selected. Former Intl. Mr. Leather Colt Thomas (now a citizen of Our Town) will team up with Bear manager Jerry Downing as judges.

Last Tuesday night, Jan. 12th, Vic Arimondi's black and white photo show premiered at My Place on Folsom with a gala reception beginning at 1800 hours. The show will hang for about two weeks. You may recall, Vic was the co-photographer along with Robert Pruzana-dana on the Eagle's '88 calendar. Since Terry put an ad in the Advocate for the calendar they're selling like hot cakes with some 50 mail orders last week alone. It's keeping David (Stella) Stoll busy looking for mailing tubes, but then Stella never has a problem finding tubes, if you know what I mean!

Last night (Wed., Jan. 13) the aspirants to the throne of the Emperor and Empress of San Francisco went before the Inquisition (read: Candidate Review Board) to see if they were good enough to run for the aforementioned titles. If all goes well they'll be out in full force this weekend on the campaign trail.

Lily Street (a.k.a. Andy Black) will kickoff his campaign at Kimo's at 2000 hours with a party. Sunday, Jan. 17, if she's selected, Deena Jones (a.k.a. Tony White) will kickoff his campaign with a fundraiser for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Godfather Fund at Trocadero Transfer with a "Taking It To The Streets" (TITS) extravaganza with Shawn Benson, Gail Wil-



Jim Cvitanich co-producer of Men Behind Bars, sports the MBBIV T-shirts new available at Main Line Gifts for the President's weekend extrav. (Photo: Marcus)

son, Marga Gomez, Campus Theatre dancers (you know what they do!) and Danny Williams as the MC. In addition, the Glide Ensemble will perform (sans Allen White). The doors open at 1800 and the show begins at 1900—this sounds hot! Deena sounds hot! The campaign sounds hot! The other candidates, if any, have not given me any info on their campaign(s), so apparently they don't need any publicity.

At 1800 that same day, the Barbary Coasters M/C, as a prelude to their Motorcycle Awards and to help you in voting (if you're eligible), will present a video of various nominated individual and group "numbers." Now this is not what you think! The "numbers" are those musical endea-

vors by various singles and groups on various bike runs, both in town and out of town. The nominees for Man of the Year, namely Gary Kenyon (Constantines), Frank Benoit (Constantines), Vinnie Russell (Barbary Coasters), and Rocky Rockwood (Cheaters), will be judges at the Mr. February '89 Bare Chest contest at the SF-Eagle on Thursday, Jan. 28, so you can get a gander at the creme de la creme de cycle clubs!

The Motorcycle Awards will take place Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Show Folks of America Hall (827 Hyde St.) with the doors opening at 1800 hours and the show at 2000 hours. Advance tickets are \$10 or \$12 at the door (Continued on next page)



Michael Verdone of the Elephant Walk recently presented Neil Kapleau of the AIDS Emergency Fund with a check for \$1,255 from money raised at the Elephant Walk's Christmas party (Photo: S. Martin)

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Tom Ammiano (l.), Suzy Berger, and Kelly Kittel get religion in 'Can't Keep a Straight Face' last Friday at the Galleon (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

and are available North of Market at the Men's Room and Transfer or South of Market at My Place (thanks!). Mr. Puddles (David Dysart) will team up with out-of-retirement John Wilson (sounds like a hot combination) for the sound and music! More on this event later.

The Phoenix Uniform Club will be the guests of honor this Sunday, Jan. 17, at Dreamland for what is being billed in advance as (their words) "the first and probably the best party of the New Year" (Ron Baer and Associates' Dreamland Productions) with duets \$7 in advance (at All American Boy, Headlines, Image, and Mister S Leathers) or \$10 at the door. Dubbed "Fantasies," it is ostensibly a "uniform" dance party, but you're all encouraged to dress as your "fantasy," preferably in a South-of-Market uniform (Does this include Muni, SoPac RR and Sunset Scavenger?), not, repeat, not, drag. No one in drag will be turned away, but wouldn't you feel funny in fem drag at such an event? The party goes from 1600 to ??? (their punctuation), which means you have plenty of time to call in with a lie about why you're not at work on Monday morning. Part of the proceeds will go to Gary Brown's AZT Bank Fund and one of the highlights (Could there be one with all those uniforms on hand?) of the event will be the Dreamland mirror ball being re-installed—you know, that big glittery thing that lowers itself magically (magically?) to the floor and will remind you of so many tricks who can do the same thing, although how magically is a matter of personal technique! If you have any questions about who's doing the lights, sound, and spinning, call 821-7282 because I do not want to slight anyone on the staff of Dreamland Productions. Need you ask that Randy West did the poster and that they're being stolen wherever they're put up? I didn't think so. If anyone knows what uniform clubs and uniforms are all about, it's Randy West, and he's proven it a million times, hasn't he, David darling?

Joy Schulenberg wants you all to know that the 2nd Annual Ms Leather of San Francisco contest will take place on Saturday, Jan. 23, at Trocadero Transfer. The winner will compete in the Intl. Ms Leather Contest March 26. If you want to volunteer to help out with either project or be a contestant, contact Joy at 863-9413.

Tickets are only \$7 at the door (Great bargain!) and leather women are encouraged to compete for the title that will be vacated by Shadow Morton. Thanks for a great year, Shadow. You helped out at every possible opportunity and we all appreciate you, you, you and your efforts!

The San Francisco GDI's are celebrating their 14th Anniversary on that same date at the Covered Wagon, but no time was given on their invitations, er, excuse me, on their press release—I didn't get an invitation.

The next day, the Cheaters M/C will present their Presidential Convention at what I hear is a hot and real neat new hall at 2929 19th St. from 1400-1700. The President of the Year (of the bike clubs) will be selected/voted upon/chosen in a bout of spirited campaign balloting. The outstanding corresponding secretary of the year will also be announced by the Wizard of Dish.

February is too monstrous to get into for now, but the Cal Eagles M/C are celebrating their 4th Anniv. on Saturday, Feb. 6, Puttin' on the Titz opens at Sutter's Mill, and a whole lot of other things are going on. Stay tuned.

PUTTIN' ON THE DISH, RITZ, DITZ

Naturally, you all know that Intl. Mr. Leather 1984 Colt Thomas is now a resident of our town, but all this time you thought he was, repeat was, studying to be a doctor, didn't you? Suspensions mounted last week that Colt was studying to be a

veterinarian when it was learned he has been making trips to Sonoma County ranches to buy sheep! Sheep? An informed source "close" to Colt swears he overheard Colt confide to a friend: "After all, you can only catch syphilis from sheep!" Like they say, truth is stranger than fiction—or should that be "friction"? Seriously, he was studying medicine, but the wags just couldn't resist blowing it (blowing it?) out of proportion! See you at the video club, Colt!

The following item should be in Nez Pas' column, but since Nez never answers his phone, I trust some Oakland queens will read this: Electric City, the gay TV producers, announced that their program will now be seen on PCTV Cable Network in Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, and Emeryville on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 2130 hours on a regular basis. Their premiere show will be on Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 2100 and will be the Gay Pride Parade show and will also be their 1st Anniversary show. PCTV means Peralta College TeleVision, and you thought it was something X-rated, didn't you?

As if we didn't have enough "special" clubs/groups/fetish/special interest groups, comes now a new magazine called *Bear*. It's a magazine for bearded men and their fans. Actually, it's for anyone who's always horny, but just uses beards for an excuse to be with the right person. Everyone's called a hairy bear. They didn't tell me how often their magazine comes out, but it costs \$17 for four issues, payable to



Tom Ammiano and his fan at the Agnos inaugural (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

COA, 2215-R Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Actually, the magazine is quite well done with clear photos, nice printing, and the editor's name, Dick Bulger (is this for real?) with Brahma Studios doing the photography (as in Brahma Bull?). There are personal ads in it from all over the world, and they even have videos for sale. Sign up now and my thanks to Michael Goldberg for the tip and the free subscription. Any word out there from your readers about a Nipple Play club for those into that sort of thing? Mark Jonson is getting nervous out there without one. The foregoing is not a plug for the Bear bar. Hi, Jerry!

South of Marketeer and one of the most popular empresses ever in this town, Jane Doe XII, will return for a visit for the coronation and Men Behind Bars and

will be holding court South of Market, of course. We expect to see Jane on or about the 13th of February, so call Stella if you want to make an appointment for an audience with Her Imperial Majesty. Long Live The Empress Jane Doe!

That wraps it up either for your fish scales or the bottom of your bird cages. Did you see all the Agnosissies kissing ass last week last week at City Hall? Too, too much! We'll see how much gay clout there is in City Hall reeal shortly.

'Til then, keep your legs crossed, stay out of the bushes (muddy), and stay generous. You never know who's listening to your dish! See you round the campus. Bon voyage to all of you heading to Phoenix for the big gay rodeo this weekend. If you can't rope 'em, you can ride our boys! •



Patsy Cline

(Photo: Rink)

Karl's Calendar *Compiled by Diedre*

THURSDAY 1/14

Anything Goes Show, Kimo's, 9 p.m., hostess Patsy Recline.

January Bare Chest Contest, S.F. Eagle, 10 p.m.

Desiree Revue, N'Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

FRIDAY 1/15

Lily Street Candidate For Empress Kickoff Party, Kimo's, 8 p.m.

Constantine's Serving "Connie Dogs," S.F. Eagle patio, Friday and Saturday nights, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., \$2 (large and juicy).

SATURDAY 1/16

Presentation of Imperial Candidates Gala, California Club, doors open 6 p.m., show starts 7 p.m., \$7.

After Gala Party, Kimo's, 11 p.m.

SUNDAY 1/17

Lily Street Candidate For Empress Beer Bust, S.F.

Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$7, benefit Inter-Club Fund.

Cabaret Night, Galleon, 5 p.m., \$5 cover, Cynthia Bythell and Joseph Taro, 8 p.m., \$6 cover, Solomon Rose.

Broadway Party, Mint, 9 p.m., benefit Coming Home Hospice.

TUESDAY 1/19

Imperial All-Candidate Night, Kimo's, 8 p.m.

Open Mike Night, Galleon, 9 p.m., host Mikio Hirata.

WEDNESDAY 1/20

Bash For Shepard House, Paradise (Oakland), bus from Kokpit 7:30 p.m., \$13.88, buffet, drinks, raffle, show.

THURSDAY 1/21

Stanley Candidate For Emperor Kickoff Party, Mint, 8 p.m., entertainment Stephanie Miller 9 p.m.

Desiree Revue, N'Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m. •

IMsL Fundraising Auction Jan 16

Jan. 16 International Ms Leather, Inc. will sponsor an art auction at the Endup, 401 6th St. at Harrison. The featured artist will be Carl Ferreira. Ferreira was most known for his sketches and portrayals of men. However, he did leave a beautiful collection of female nude sketches prior to his death. Many of these sketches are matted and framed and ready for hanging.

Also works by Judy Tallwing-McCarthy, 1987 International Ms Leather, will be for sale. Ms Tallwing-McCarthy is a nationally known American Southwest painter who draws upon her own heritage as an Apache Indian to create her images.

Other Bay Area artists have donated many of their works for this fundraising event.

Previewing will begin at 4 p.m. and the auction will begin at 6 p.m. Guest auctioneers include Danny Williams, Ms San Francisco Leather Shadow Morton, and Alan Selby, owner of Mr. S Leathers in San Francisco.

All money raised by this event will go to help put on the 1988 International Ms Leather Contest to be held in March at the Gift Center Pavilion.

There is a \$2 cover charge for this event.

All proceeds from the 1988 International Ms Leather Contest will be split between The Names Project, Project Open Hand, and Lyon-Martin Clinic.

For further information on this event, or any other forthcoming events, contact Joy at 863-9413. •

Taking The Plunge

"Taking The Plunge" is a six-week class with a spiritual focus. It is designed for men and women who are ready to make concrete changes in their lives, careers, or relationships. Sessions will focus on teaching participants ways to push through barriers, begin making changes, and have fun in the process. Classes begin Monday, Jan. 25.

For more information, contact Jim Christrup, MSW, CMT, (415) 821-4788. •

Mud Olympics II

Saturday, May 21, Mud Olympics II will be held in honor of the late Dr. Tom Waddell. The party will concentrate on events of strength and endurance such as Tug of War, Mud Volleyball, Mud Wrestling, and a T-shirt ripping contest. Ten percent of all profits will be donated to Face To Face, the Sonoma County AIDS Network.

For more information send a stamped legal-size envelope to Club Mud, P.O. Box 277, Rio Nido, CA 95471. Discount admission applies until Jan. 31. •

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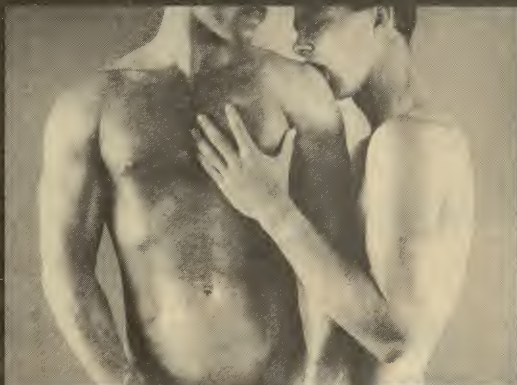
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Mark Fries

Promises, Promises

The promises one might make to himself over a year's period might be misconstrued as an untruth. However, there are still many things we have to confess to, and one of those is our New Year's Resolutions.

I have two.

The first is that I will try my damndest to make sure my column is in on time, which I'm sure will bring a few raised eyebrows from the B.A.R. editorial staff.

The second could go on forever because it will include my solemn oath to press on with the future no matter what it might hold, and always remember there is a future awaiting all of us!

Here I go with part of the past already! But I can surely get out of this predicament by the simple act of justification.

Whether you know it or not we are known in Portland, Oregon, because of the fact that this paper is shipped to several bars there and is considered a rare commodity in Portland even though they do have some fine journalistic digests to boast of in that fine city. Many of you have probably read the many antics of Sweetlips, and others, throughout the years who have found pleasure, glamour, and delight in their wanderings about Portland OHH-ARR-EEE. For the most part I will testify that it is true—and my friend Lusable Brown will



Deena Jones

testify to the fact that Rona, Kelly, Mame, Lance, Lance, Judy (even though Florida is calling), and Lance Cartwright's roommate Michael thinks I have toooooo much fun at the Lloyd Center—that all have a delightful time being a part of such a swell town.

To get to the bottom of this is merely to say I am glad to know there are so many people in other places who think in the same fashion we do here in San Francisco, and to tell you it is a testimony to caring is to be redundant, something I will be accused of again in my career, but will never be convicted of!

I would most likely be inclined to give a silly rendering of the Chili Cook-Off at the Town & Country, but it does seem highly unlikely that all the judges, mainly from the B.A.R. staff—thank you, Nez Pas—would agree on the fact that it might be silly, and of course, Little Mother couldn't (hiccup) bribe any of us!

So you shall have to wait for full details on the Chili Cook-Off because it is only fair that Nez Pas report on all the details in his next column.

Birthday greetings going out to a few of the girls: Deena Jones on the 17th (more on that later), Sable celebrating on the 18th, Gaby whooping it up on the 29th, and Vinnie partying on the 31st. There is bound to be a shortage of candles by the end of the month, so it would be to your advantage to do some serious stocking up A.S.A.P.!

Since the review board hurdle had not been crossed at deadline time, I think it best that I don't mention any of the candidates' parties. Although I seem to have an appointment book that is full of them, fear not because the town will be full of information concerning these parties by the weekend.

To get a gander at the candidates who are chosen, you can see them all as they make their glamorous presentations to San Francisco this Saturday evening at The California Club, Clay St. between Polk and Van Ness, and the doors will open at 6 p.m. with the show starting at 7 p.m. Tickets for this event are available at

the Galleon, Kimo's, or at the door for \$7.

"Taking it to the Streets," Tea Dance '88, will be a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Godfather Service Fund and is presented by Deena Jones, produced by Mr. Don Johnson, and is all happening this Sunday at the Trocadero Transfer. Danny Williams will be the M.C. for the entertainment lineup that will include Shawn Benson, Gail Wilson, Marga Gomez, Irene Soderberg, performers from the Campus Theatre, a production number from *Little Shop of Horrors*, and if that's not enough how about a special appearance by The Glide Ensemble all for a \$5 donation? This party goes from 6 'til 10 p.m. with the opening production at 7 p.m., and yes that was me who was spotted at Kimo's nibbling on Deena's ear.

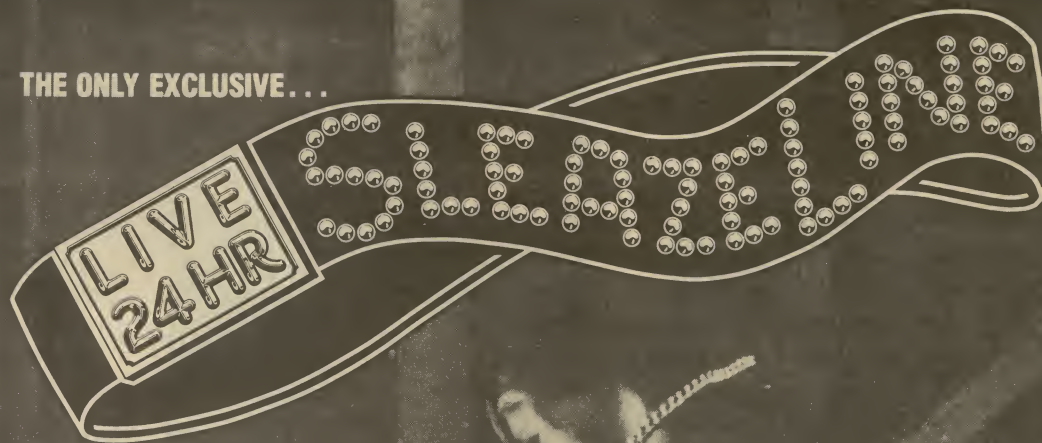
On that very same Sunday evening Bill Perez, as Miss Carol Channing, will be the hostess at the Mint for its first Broadway Crystal Award party that will start at 8 p.m. with the categories being Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Production, all from either a Broadway musical or drama. There will be entertainment, door prizes, celebrities, Wally Kum at the piano, and the usual loads of fun. See you at the Theatre!

That just about wraps it up for another wild week in the city. However, there will be a party this evening at the Galleria Design Center, 15th and Kansas, from 5:30 'til 7:30 p.m. as the San Francisco Foundation celebrates its 40th anniversary and also presents the John R. May award to the Shanti Project. All are welcome.

Grand Duke Tom and Grand Duchess Flame are doing a bus trip to the Reno Imperial Ducal Coronation leaving the city on Friday, Jan. 22, and returning on the 24th. The cost is a mere \$60 and includes the bus trip and two nights' lodging at the Sun-downer. To make your reservations you can check with Flame at the Polk Gulch, or at his home at 775-1119.

Before my second wind hits I shall be merciful and close for this week. Be happy! ●

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THIS



Marga Gomez will also entertain at Tea
Dance '88 (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

FRIDAY 15

- **Quisbies:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$12. The last preview performance of Leland Moss' Sometime Comedy, directed by Barbara Daoust. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **TGIF:** sponsored by Bay Area Career Women, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 6-9 PM, members \$3, non-members \$7. Music, no-host bar. An event for women. Call 495-5393 for more information.
- **Bad Seed:** stage performance, The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$10. Tippi, Miss X, Doris Fish, Sandal Hebert, Jack Rikess, Phillip R. Ford, Lori Naslund, David Van Chaney, Larry Wilson, and Phil Mangano in the play by Maxwell Anderson. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Brown Bag Reader's Theatre:** stage performance, Sisterspirit Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, doors open 8 PM, show begins 8:30 PM, \$5-\$8 sliding scale. Brown Bag Reader's Theatre focuses on women and alcoholism, using music and humor to share their personal experiences and hopes for continued recovery.
- **Joshua Howe:** music, Sweet Inspiration, 2239 Market St., S.F., 8 PM. Country/Blues. Call 552-8328 for more information.
- **Sing-A-Long:** with Frank Banks on the piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-8 PM.
- **Dick Fregulia:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Black and White Men Together:** East Bay games night, 7:30 PM. Call 482-3347 for more information.
- **Chess Classes:** San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30 PM, \$5 per session, \$40 for ten-week course (bring a chessboard and pieces with your name on it), no smoking (breaks as needed), free coffee and cookies provided. Call Tadd Waggoner at 626-1049 or 546-8104 for more information.
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** service, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 2-4 PM, \$2. Call 552-7339 for more information.

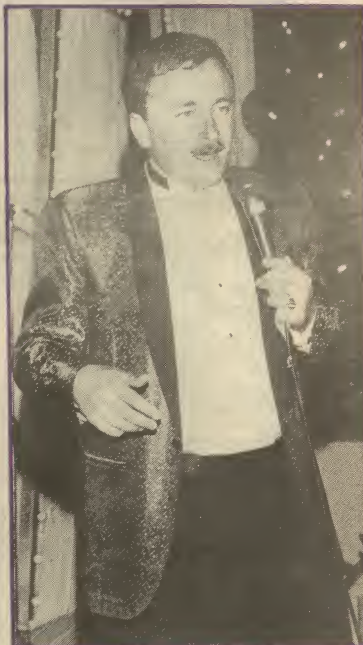
SATURDAY 16

- **Quisbies:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$12. The opening-night performance of Leland Moss' Sometime Comedy, directed by Barbara Daoust. Call 861-5079 for tickets.
- **Bad Seed:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Melanie Monsur:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$4-\$6 sliding scale.
- **Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **EastBay FrontRunners:** Inspiration Point/Tilden Park run. Take Grizzly Peak to either South Park Dr. or Shasta Rd. Meet at parking lot on left side of road. Flat to slight incline, 3-8 mile loop. Call 939-3579 or 261-3246 for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at 1 PM at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F. to decide on a ride.
- **Horny Miss:** garden tour and potluck dinner party in Sausalito. Call 415-7212 or 792-6627 for more information.

- **Gay Gourmet Potluck:** 7 PM in San Francisco. Call 775-6143 for more information.
- **Living With AIDS:** one-day seminar, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 9 AM-5 PM, \$12-\$30 sliding scale. Led by Tom O'Connor. Call 626-0469 for more information.
- **HIV+ Social Club:** meeting. Call 863-2301 or 285-4942 for more information.
- **Church of the Secret Gospel:** service, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 9 PM. Call 621-1887 for more information.

SUNDAY 17

- **Taking It To The Streets:** tea dance '88 presented by Deena Jones, Trocadero Transfer, 520 4th St., S.F., 6-10 PM, \$5. With Shawn Benson, Gail Wilson, Marga Gomez, Irene Soderberg, performers from the Campus Theatre, Danny Williams, and the Glide Ensemble. To benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Godfather Service Fund.
- **Fantasies:** South-of-Market uniform party, Dreamland, 715 Harrison St., S.F., 4 PM, \$7 in advance (All American Boy, Headlines, Image Leather, and Mr. S Leathers), \$10 at the door. Guests of honor will be the Phoenix Uniform Club, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Gary Brown's AZT fund. Music by Steve Smith; lights, lasers, and neon by Greg Fleming and Bob DiCesare.
- **The Greatest "T" on Earth:** tea dance, Club St. John, 170 W. St. John St., San Jose, 4 PM. With trapeze artist Pierre Nadeau; prizes for the best clowns. Call (408) 947-1667 for more information.



Danny Williams will be the M.C. at the Troc
Jan. 17 (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

- **Quisbies:** stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).
- **Bad Seed:** stage performance, 2:30 PM (see Friday listing for details).
- **Cynthia:** music, The Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 5 PM, \$5. With special guest Joseph Taro and Scrumby Koldewyn at the piano. Call 431-0253 for more information.
- **Variety Show:** Bench and Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, 10 PM. Singing, dancing, impersonation, and comedy.
- **Sunday Afternoon Sketch Group:** drawing class for gay men, nude model provided, \$6. Call 421-0316 for more information.
- **Faith Winthrop and Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Lake Merced/Boathouse run. Meet at 10 AM at the Boathouse for level 4-mile run around Lake Merced. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **South Bay Lesbian and Gay Volleyball:** open gym, \$2. Call (408) 732-2306 for more information.
- **Gay Volleyball:** playground at Petro Jr. High, 19th and DeHaro, 11 AM.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 10 AM to decide on a ride.

WEEK

DeAnini Masters Swim Team: practice, King Point, Third and Carroll Sts., S.F., 10 AM to noon. Call 285-8859 for more information.

G40+: meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 PM. Cleve Jones, founder of the NAMES Project, will speak. Call 552-1997 for more information.

Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center: progressive dinner, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, \$20.

San Jose Lambda Society of the Deaf: winter potluck, 600 Rainbow Dr., Apt. 161, Mt. View, 2 PM, free with dish, \$2 without dish, no-host cocktails. Elections will be held.

Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group: meeting, Old Firehouse, Stanford University campus, 7:30 PM. This week's topic is "Adventures in the Hot World: How Out Are You and How Well Does it Work?"

Fraternal Order of Gays: game afternoon, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 2 PM. Call 641-0999 for more information.

Healing Your Amuse System: workshop for activating humor in the treatment of AIDS and ARC, S.F. School of ReMirthing, 513 Valencia St., S.F., 1-4 PM, \$10 (no one turned away for lack of funds).

Church of the Secret Gospel: phallic fellowship, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 8 PM-1 AM. Call 621-1887 for more information.

Integrity: women's focus Sunday, St. John's Church in the Mission, 1661 15th St., S.F., 5:30 PM. Stone Soup Supper and discussion will follow Eucharist (bring a veggie for the soup pot).

Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons: discussion, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7 PM. Call 641-4554 for more information.

San Francisco MCC: morning worship and holy communion, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 10:30 AM.

Diablo Valley MCC: worship and communion service, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for more information.

Radiant Light Ministries: Sunday celebration of love and life, Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., S.F., 10 AM. Call 861-1667 for more information.

New Life MCC: worship and communion service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley, 5 PM. Call 843-9355 for more information.

Calvary MCC: worship service, 2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City, 6 PM. Call 368-0188 for more information.

MCC of the Redwoods: worship and communion service, Olive and Throckmorton Sts., Mill Valley, 10:45 AM. Call 388-2315 for more information.

Latter-Day Saints: sacrament meeting for lesbians and gays and their friends, Sacramento Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St., Sacramento, 1 PM. Conducted by the Sacramento Family of the Restoration Church of Jesus Christ. Call (916) 447-5755 for more information.

Golden Gate MCC: Sunday worship services, 48 Belcher St. (between 14th St. and Duboce), S.F., 12:30 PM, 7 PM. Call 474-4848 for details.

Holy Trinity Church: meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 10 AM to noon.



Gail Wilson will be part of the entertainment at Taking It To The Streets: Tea Dance '88 Jan. 17 at Trocadero Transfer (Photo: R. Pruzan)

MONDAY 18

The Buddy Connection: safe sex workshop for gay and bisexual men; San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-10 PM. Call 863-AIDS for more information.

Taking the Plunge: deadline for registration for six week series for men and women who are ready to make concrete changes in their lives, careers, or relationships. Call 821-4788 for more information.

Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders: support group for older gay men, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-8:30 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.

TUESDAY 19

Black and White Men Together: AIDS awareness meeting, 630 Fillmore St., Apt. 201, S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 431-8333 for more information.

East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club: meeting, meeting room, Berkeley branch of the S.F. Federal Savings Bank, corner of Shattuck and University, 7:30 PM. Call 527-0801 for more information.

Coming In: support system for being out as lesbians. The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 8-9:15 PM, \$5 (no one turned away for lack of funds). Call 541-4911 or 457-9740 for more information.

WEDNESDAY 20

Leather & Lingerie Dance: a social event for lesbians and lingerie dykes presented by The Rack Productions. Amelia's, 647 Valencia St., S.F., 9 PM-2 AM. \$3. Leather and lingerie fashion show at 10:30 PM with designs by Stormy Leather, Hedonic Engineering, and Mr. S.

Wrists: comedy with Tom Ammiano. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 8-10 PM, \$2. Call 282-3323 for more information.

Quisbies: stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).

Dick Fregulia: music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.

Open Mike Cabaret: with Katibelle Collins and Gordon Mayer, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 8-9 PM.

Testing The Limits: video screening, Modern Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 PM; donations requested. A look at militant action in New York City against the inaction of the Federal Government in fighting AIDS. Co-sponsored by the AIDS Action League and Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention. Call 282-9246 for more information.

Electric City: television on the PCTV cable network in Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, and Emeryville, 9 PM. The first anniversary and gay pride '87 shows will be rebroadcast.

The Castro Lions Club: meeting, Cafe DuNord, 2170 Market St., S.F., 6:30 PM (optional dinner \$10). Jeffrey Stermann, project director of AIDS Day Care Services Centers, Inc., will speak. Call 626-9081 for more information.

THURSDAY 21

Feathers 'N' Flesh: show, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 10 PM.

Quisbies: stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).

Gus Gustavson and Faith Winthrop: music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.

Burroughs-Wellcome Pre-Action Meeting: in anticipation of the march and action against Burroughs-Wellcome next week, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Sponsored by the AIDS Action League. Call 821-9087 for more information.

Black and White Men Together: social meeting, 3351 Waller St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 931-BWMT for more information.

Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators: monthly meeting, 655 14th St., S.F., potluck \$5, 7 PM meeting 7:30 PM. Call 864-4099 or 285-5071 for more information.

San Francisco FrontRunners: run, Meet at Mt. Diablo Lodge in Golden Gate Park at 6:30 PM. Call 442-2222 or 337-8704 for more information.

The Bay Area Reporter welcomes advertisements, businesses, and individuals to submit items for inclusion in its calendar. Placement in the calendar is not a guarantee. The sole responsibility of the editors. Deadlines: 11 AM on Thursdays.

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Taming the Shrew

Elizabethan England Condemned Gay Sex, But Heterosexual Sex Was Riskier

Homosexuality may have been officially condemned in Elizabethan England. But heterosexual sex was considered more dangerous, according to a Stanford English professor. Why was England the only country in the time of Shakespeare to ban women from the stage of public theater? Prof. Stephen Orgel asked his audience, mostly scholars from West Coast universities at the interdisciplinary Humanities Institute.

Church, school, and guild theaters in continental Europe also banned women, but only England insisted on having boys play women on public stages as well, Orgel said. Spain banished actresses in 1599, but "the spectacle of transvestite boys was found to be even more disturbing than that of theatrical women, and the edict was rescinded less than a decade later."

Anti-theater writers of the time condemned the stage for having transvestite actors. They argued that male spectators might be seduced and lust after the boys beneath women's clothes. But while this suggests the Puritans' negative attitudes toward homosexual activity, Orgel said he has only found one play from the time that casts homosexuality in a bad light. Marriage and heterosexual sex take more of a beating on the 16th century English stage.

"The Puritan charge that theater promotes homosexuality appears because to the Puritan mind theater is felt to be dangerous, not the other way around. Sodomy becomes the visible sign of its subversiveness" in the anti-theatrical tracts, he said.

Orgel, who is the author or editor of numerous books and articles on Renaissance literature, theater, and art history, said he does not know precisely why the English were the only ones to ban their own women from the stage, "but the reasons must have to do with culture-specific attitudes toward women and toward sexuality."



The Elizabethan Stagehouse at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival (Photo: H. Kranzler)

displayed no "morbid fear of homosexuality." In a study of 16th-century English justice, scholar Alan Bray found that people were treated more harshly for heterosexual fornication than for sodomy, Orgel said.

"The crime of sodomy is inveighed against repeatedly and energetically in legal and theological contexts. But as Bray demonstrates, it was scarcely ever prosecuted. When cases of homosexual behavior reach the courts, they are dealt with on the whole with surprising moderation—admonitions, exhortations to abstain," he said.

Sex with women posed a more serious judicial problem, he said. "Heterosexual sex was much more energetically prosecuted—magistrates took an interest in such cases because they resulted in illegitimate births, which increased the poor rolls. Unless the activity involved concern or malfeasance, there was rarely anything in homosexuality worth bothering about."

This indicates a "selective blindness" more than a tolerance for homosexuality in Elizabethan (Continued on page 44)



The 1986 production of *As You Like It* at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival (Photo: H. Kranzler)

In the English patriarchal order, women were extremely valuable property to their fathers. And men were expected to marry whomever the elders chose, rather than for passion.

While property and political considerations tended to keep the upper class in line, it was more possible for the middle and lower classes to stray from the norm, Orgel said. In London, women had the unusual freedom, for example, of going to the theater unescorted and unmasked.

"Fantasies of freedom in Shakespeare (involving both men and women) tend to take the form of escapes from the tyranny of elders to a world where the children can make their own society, which usually means arrange their own marriages," he said.

"The problem is the father or the king or the structure of authority, not one's gender. This is not to say that it isn't preferable to be male in the Renaissance world. Obviously it is. It's the context of that preference that I'm concerned with.

Since the theater then as now had to be supported by its audience, Orgel argued that the audiences themselves, including the numerous women in the audiences, must have shared the views of the stage.

But there is also other surviving evidence that the English



The King and Queen of Ancient Britain in *Cymbeline* at the 1983 Oregon Shakespearean Festival (Photo: H. Kranzler)

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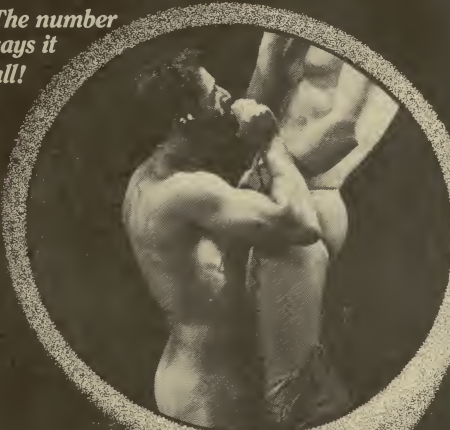
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The 1983 production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival
(Photo: H. Kranzler)

Shakespeare

(Continued from page 42)

England, he said. Bray's study also indicates that English travelers who observed homosexual activities in other countries used it as "an index to the viciousness of Catholic, Muslim, or barbaric societies."

It is commonly recognized today that English theater was misogynous. But it is far less recognized that erotic and homosexual scenes were included on stage without raising anxiety, Orgel said.

Examples where homosexuality leads to disaster are almost nonexistent in theater of the era, but marriage is often a dangerous condition in works by Shakespeare and others. Shakespeare, he reminded the audience, married a woman six years older and lived with her only five years.

Shakespearean "plays that continue beyond the point where comedy ends, with the old fogies defeated and a happy marriage successfully concluded, depict the condition as utterly disastrous: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello*. Most Shakespearean marriages of longer duration are equally disheartening. Shrewishness, jealousy, and manipulateness are the norm in comedy and real destructiveness in tragedy: Oberon and Titania, the Merry Wives, Capulet and Lady Capulet, Claudius and Gertrude, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, Cymbeline and his queen, Antigonus and Paulina," Orgel said.

"Homosexuality in this culture appears to have been less threatening than heterosexuality, and only in part because it had fewer consequences and was easier to de-sexualize. The reason always given for the prohibition of women from the stage was that their chastity would thereby be compromised, which is understood to mean that they would become whores.

"Behind the outrage of public modesty is a real fear of women's sexuality, and more specifically, of its power to evoke men's sexuality. This is dangerous because it's not subject to rational control, which is a way of saying that it's not subject to any other kind of authority either," said Orgel.

What women theatergoers may have found attractive about a theater that we today consider misogynist, Orgel said, is that it

played to female fantasies of independence, the flip side of the patriarch's view of sexuality as a "slavery to passion."

Steven Greenblatt of UC Berkeley has related this fear of women's sexuality to medical and gynecological writings of the time. Women were thought to be incomplete men. Until the age of seven or so, both boys and girls were genderless. That is, they both wore skirts in a society where dress was very clearly delineated according to one's status. The "interchangeability of the sexes," Orgel said, led to a fear hard to imagine today that men could "go back to" being women.

In anti-theatrical tracts of the time the word "effeminate" is used over and over to represent the fear of men loving women, which is perceived as threatening their manhood, he said. No one wanted to become a woman because of its lower status. Shakespeare, who often had his heroines dress in men's clothing, even showed an unwillingness in some plays to let them return to their status as women.

The feeling of the time, he said, was that "lust makes men incapable of other public pursuits." In comparison, homosexuality was less dangerous, and Orgel suggested that perhaps even the only play he has located that depicts homosexuality in a negative light (Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II*) was written that way to spare what it says about the power structure from the censors' pen.

(Ed's Note: *Edward II* may also be the first major play to protest homophobia. In it, King Edward II is brutally assassinated by a gang of nobles who resent his male lover and Edward's open relationship with him.)

Elizabethan society's concern with sexual distraction was much broader than today's, Orgel said after his lecture. Whereas a sexual liaison outside of marriage may cause the American public to doubt the suitability of a candidate for presidential leadership, sexuality even with one's spouse was viewed as "effeminate" in Elizabethan England.

Effeminacy, meaning sexuality, may have brought about the fear that English men would not only be less willing to go to war but be distracted from a whole array of public duties, several scholars in the audience agreed. That may have, in the end, been more important to the culture than the Puritan's view of homosexuality. Visiting foreigners were shocked by the freedoms of London women, so the English may have felt a greater need to keep the lid on their freedom, said Leah Marcus of the University of Wisconsin.

Theater was considered dangerous in general, and sexual titillation was part of the theater, Greenblatt noted. *Hamlet*, for example, was clearly thought of as "some kind of foreplay" for the spectators who would go to bed with someone afterward.

"You learn to be aroused by women by being aroused by men" first in the theater, Greenblatt said.

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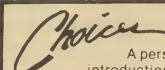
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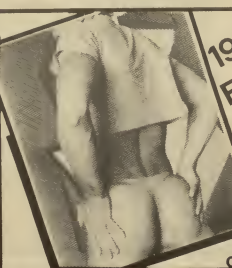
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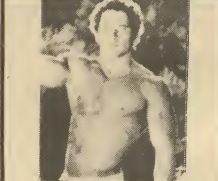
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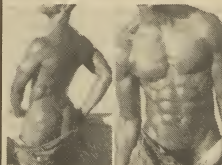
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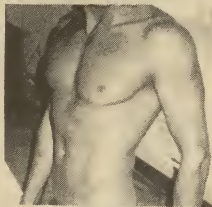
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

X-TA-C

New Cross Country Ski Club Welcomes Beginners

If you are someone who's intrigued with the idea of cross-country skiing, but still hasn't tried it, there's a new club in San Francisco you should know about.

The name of the club is the X-TA-C Cross Country Ski Club; if you say it quickly, you should get the word ecstasy. In skiing lingo, X-C is shorthand for cross-country, which is the only type of skiing this club offers. And the "TA"? That's the gay/lesbian part.

Cross-country skiing—a different activity from downhill skiing—is the type of skiing where you can learn enough in an hour to have a great first day on skis. There are no lifts in cross-country skiing; instead you glide and slide on marked trails.

Someone once described cross-country skiing as the easy way to hike: for each step you take on your skis, you move about 10 feet. And this is on level ground. A miracle, you say? No, just the hi-tech of x-c skis.

X-TA-C Ski Club, started only this October by six novice x-c skiers, is the only club of its kind (gay/lesbian kind) in Northern California. As of January, the X-TA-C has 70 members of all skiing levels, with novice and first-time skiers well represented. Dues are \$10 per year.

Club coordinators Frank Pontes and Trudy Brown spoke about the club recently with B.A.R. and the following is the interview.

B.A.R.: *A Cross-Country Ski Club in San Francisco? Who has joined and why so many, so quickly?*

Frank Pontes: The response and support X-TA-C has received sure surprised us, too. That six new members join a week tells us that gays and lesbians want to x-c ski and that X-TA-C is the place they can play a couple of ways. First, they can learn how to ski in a pretty safe environment with lots of support. Second, those in the club who are more experienced x-c skiers can meet other folks who ski a lot and get together for more rigorous weekends.

Trudy Brown: One-third of the members are women and X-TA-C is a great place to meet other women and spend time being with guys, too. X-TA-C is a club of people first, politics second.

B.A.R.: *Where do you ski?*

T.B.: X-TA-C has 10 weekends booked for our first season. Our weekends are in the Sierras mostly. Specifically, we go to Donner Pass (near I-80), Yosemite, Bear Valley, and maybe Mt. Shasta in March for Spring skiing.

B.A.R.: *Tell us more about the weekends.*

F.P.: About 10-25 members carpool up on a Friday night and we stay at condos, log cabins—wherever we can find a place for all of us to be comfortable (and cook) in. The cost for lodging and meals runs about \$30 per person, so it's affordable for almost



You will probably never be faced with this situation if you stick to cross-country skiing (Photo: A. Kvali)

anyone. Ski rental is available nearby.

T.B.: On the weekends, it really doesn't matter what level of skier you are; you can figure there are people who know as little—or much—about x-c skiing as you do and people ski together sometimes, in smaller groups other times. It depends. We eat together and play cards and games in the evening or go for a walk or moonlight ski tour. A perfect weekend.

B.A.R.: *How would someone get more information?*

F.P.: We'll send a brochure and current newsletter to anyone who calls. Then, they can sign up for a trip or come to our monthly munchie potlucks in San Francisco and meet other skiers (or soon-to-be skiers). We average about 50 people at each party. The number to call is 995-2736. Leave your name, address, and phone number on the tape and we'll send you what you'll need.

B.A.R.: *What are your plans for the future?*

T.B.: That's really up to our members, who actually participate a lot in the club. We're working on renting a house at Tahoe for next season which members could use. We'll be adding more trips, of course, as we grow, and doing a week-long trip in Colorado, Canada, or in the Sierras isn't out of the question. Our first

priority is to have our first season work really well.

The X-TA-C Cross Country Ski Club offers weekend trips, Learn-to-Ski Days, monthly newsletter, monthly party, carpooling, and the chance to meet other people and ski more this Winter. For brochure and newsletter, call 995-2736 or write: X-TA-C Ski Club, 1475 Polk St., Box 33, San Francisco, CA 94109. •

* * * * *

Ski With X-TA-C

Thursday, Jan. 14, there will be a party in the Castro for all those interested in the X-TA-C ski club and its forthcoming ski trips. It will be held at 1618 Castro St. from 7 to 9 p.m.

Bring a munchie and see the X-TA-C video, demonstration, or other surprises. The trip coordinators will be on hand to greet you and introduce you to the other members.

Callers can also request information about the club. The number to call is 995-2736. Brochures and newsletters are available.

The X-TA-C Ski Club is a non-profit group of 70 women and men who enjoy cross-country skiing. Most of the members are beginners, and special learning-to-ski weekends are made available. Other members of the club telemark, ski skate, and participate in overnight campouts.

Dues are \$10 to join the club, and members receive a monthly newsletter and access to the eight trips scheduled for this, the club's first season. The club also has a monthly party where members and potential members can meet each other and plan ski trips. •



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PHOTOGRAPHER: KIRK IRELAND



Gay Boating Club Denied Membership to Yacht Group

by Will Snyder

A major battle with potential legal ramifications may be shaping up between a gay boating club and a California yachting organization. The Barbary Coast Boating Club (BCBC), a gay boating group based in Greenbrae, alleged that the Pacific Inter Coast Yachting Association (PICYA) practiced discrimination in denying PICYA membership to the BCBC.

The BCBC claims that a membership meeting originally planned for this month was moved up to December. According to BCBC vice-commodore Chuck Jungi, the change in the meeting date didn't give his organization a chance to campaign for support among PICYA members.



The Surf Jet ski can be new adventure

"We have three options," said Jungi. "We can apply again for membership, a process that could take up to two years. We can walk away and not apply. Or, we can take legal action."

In a news release sent to the press, Jungi claimed that an un-

named member of a major Bay Area yacht club alleged that PICYA commodore-elect Glenn Harter objected to the BCBC application at an October PICYA delegates meeting at Coyote Point Yacht Club. According to Jungi, the unnamed delegate

quoted Harter as follows: "This is that gay yacht club. Do you really want them in your clubs?"

Harter told Bay Area Reporter that the statement attributed to him was "absolutely ridiculous. I completely and categorically deny having made that statement." Harter said the statement in the news release alleged as his was potentially libelous.

According to Jungi, the BCBC originally applied for membership in 1986 and felt confident that it could gain membership in the PICYA. He added that his organization secured endorsements from such a wide range of individuals as San Francisco Sup. John Molinari, SF Power Squadron commander James B. Short and H. Tod Keith, the national director of the Classic Yacht Association.

Harter refused to elaborate as to why the BCBC failed to meet

the PICYA's qualifications for membership. "I don't want to make statements along the lines of what qualifies a club and what doesn't," said Harter. "If they qualify they do, if they don't, then they don't."

Jungi, however, said in his news release that an initial problem was getting all BCBC members to give releases so that their names could be listed on PICYA rosters, a requirement for membership in the PICYA. Jungi said that after his organization talked over the situation, "almost all of (the) members" agreed to give releases for their names.

"Those members who still did not want their names released, many because of their high security jobs, accepted a non-voting

membership," said Jungi. "Non-voting members do not have to be reported to the PICYA."

Jungi emphasized that the BCBC applied to the PICYA "with the best interests. We thought it was time to take on social responsibilities such as an emphasis on safety. That's one of the reasons we applied to the PICYA."

The BCBC has 145 members and a fleet of 80 boats ranging from two 78-foot motor yachts, a 58-foot trimaran sailing vessel, a 16-foot ski boat and a 24-foot sloop. Jungi claimed that the BCBC is "larger, stronger and far more active than several of the PICYA's current member clubs."



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Leagues Return From The Holidays

by Richard McPherson

The leagues are back underway after a holiday break and next week we'll take a look at some of the hot shooters.

The start of the new year is a good time to take note of some of the major upcoming tournaments, so get your calendars out and start circling.

The next big International Gay Bowling Organization (IGBO) sponsored tourney in this area is the 5th Annual Tri-City Team Tournament to be held this year in Sacramento, on Saturday, March 12. Since this is a team-only event many bowlers put together two teams and make a day of it in the host city. The cash prize ratio is 1 for 6, which means improved chances for winning. Pick up entry forms from Mal Garcia at Park Bowl or call him at 752-2366 for info.

The next major local competition is the 53rd Annual S.F. City Tournament. This is a non-gay event open to all male league bowlers. (That's right, this is an "all male" tourney so some of you girls will have to butch it up!



Want to meet new friends? Join a bowling league!

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Talk to Frank 'Alexis' Romeo if you need some lessons.) Gay bowlers were well represented last year, many of them placing in the prize money.

The team event will be held Feb. 20-21, 27-28 at Serra Bowl in Colma; Doubles and Singles events are in Pacifica at Pacifica Coast Lanes on March 5-6, 12-13. Entry forms may be obtained at all S.F. bowling establishments. Entry deadline is Feb. 4.

doubles and singles events (\$1,000 first place team prize money). The tournament committee guarantees housing for all visiting bowlers, thus eliminating costly hotel bills, and I hear that round-trip airfare can be obtained for under \$150.00. The entry deadline is March 1. Further information and entry forms can be obtained from Mal Garcia 752-2366.

Now is the time to start talking up the history-making IGBO '88. This will be the largest gay bowling tournament to ever take place on this planet. This event, scheduled for May 26-30 in Washing-

ton, D.C. is expected to draw 1,500 gay and lesbian participants from the U.S. and Canada. If you've ever fancied going out of town for a tournament this should be the one... start planning now. More details coming soon.

No word yet on whether or not the monthly no tap tournaments will be starting up again. I'll find out and let you know.

S.F. gay bars are the sponsors of most of the teams in our gay leagues, and now is your chance to see many of the bartenders of these bars live, on stage. *Men Behind Bars*, "The Bartender's Folly," at the Victoria Theater, is where you'll find them Feb. 12-15. Buy tickets now at Headlines, before they sell out. Proceeds go to the AIDS Emergency Fund and Coming Home Endowment Fund. I just got word that heart-throb Joe Ross, Pilsner bartender, will be singing a solo. That alone is worth a front row seat!

We are again saddened to hear of the passing of another of our bowlers. Richard Bee, a seven-year veteran of the Monday Tavern Guild League passed away on January 2.

Please, please, please bowlers, support all efforts at raising funds for AIDS and ARC patients and services. Our strength and our pride continues to stem from our pulling together as a family within the midst of our gay community to support and help each other through today and tomorrow.

Bye for now, I'll see you at the usual alley.

POOL

The Ultimate Challenge

by Lauren Ward

West Coast Challenge XVI, the ultimate prize for players in leagues from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego was hosted last weekend with a flair by the Long Beach Pool League.

For the first time, Long Beach also conducted a separate women's individual competition in an effort to include more participation by women in the semi-annual event. The competition drew a vocal gallery of supporters for the competitors.

Cindy Kelly, the Long Beach Board member who conducted the women's event, was delighted that each of the four cities placed a finalist in the top four. "What I want most of all," she said, "is to see the event included in all future Challenges."

Her wish was subsequently granted by a majority of the West Coast Challenge Board, made up of three members from each city.

The women finalists were Angela Costa, first (L.A.), Joy Johnson, second (San Diego), Stacey Harris, third (Long Beach), and Lauren Ward, fourth (S.F.). San Francisco's Torri Connelly and Fran Herman tied for fifth and sixth.

TEAM COMPETITION

Vanna White Swallow was S.F.'s representative in the team competition. Their first match on Friday was against a powerhouse team of Challenge veterans from San Diego. The S.F. team seemed to be rallying for a comeback but were eventually defeated, 9-6.

Saturday morning San Francisco played a seesaw match with Long Beach, the loser facing elimination. S.F. survived by a 9-7 score and turned its attention to the San Diego-L.A. match, which would decide their next opponent.

That match was tied at 8-8, forcing a best-of-five tiebreaker. San Diego won three in a row to remain undefeated.

On Saturday evening S.F. and L.A. faced off with the loser again facing elimination. It was another tight match with both teams showing signs of frayed nerves. With S.F. ahead, 8-7, it was up to Walter Moreira to win it or allow the tie. Walter came through to give S.F. a rematch with San Diego Sunday morning.

It was all San Diego in the finals as they won the Championship by a 9-3 score.

Based on his team-high statistics and his leadership, Rick Mariani was selected by his Vanna White Swallow teammates as their MVP.

INDIVIDUALS' COMPETITION

The open individuals' competition traditionally features some of the hottest competition that amateur players ever face.

S.F.'s Lisa Duncan was the only woman in the field and had drawn one of the strongest players, Kim Walker from San Diego. She lost, 3-2, but then defeated L.A.'s Mark Sharpe. She was subsequently eliminated by L.A.'s Frank Novelo.

San Francisco's Moriera was defeated by San Diego's Jim Hennessy in the first round. He came back with losers' bracket wins over Mike Calderone and Frank Bustamante before being eliminated by San Diego's Fred Frazier.

S.F.'s Jim Russo lost his first match to David Heinen and then had wins over David Heyman, Rich Curtis, and Frank Novelo.

E.Z. was the only S.F. player to win a first round match, a 3-0 defeat of Fred Frazier. He then defeated Novelo before falling to Jim Hennessy, a seven-time San Diego Individuals Champion. In the losers' bracket he eliminated Russo and David Heinen to reach a rematch with Hennessy in the losers' bracket final.

(Continued on page 53)

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NEW GUYS
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All Holmes' Children

The Always Anonymous Beast
by Lauren Wright Douglas
Naia Press, Inc.; \$8.95

by Dianne Gregory

P. D. James' Adam Dalgleish and Cordelia Gray, Dorothy Sayers' Peter Wimsey and Harriet Vane, Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade, John Preston's David Brandstetter, Katherine Forrester's Kate Delafield, and now Lauren Douglas' Caitlin Reece, are all children of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, continuing a literary tradition that may seem to sputter and spit for a time, but never completely dies out.

Detective fiction, murder mysteries, call them what you will, must be mathematical in their precision and yet not get so bogged down in detail that the overriding human story is lost among fingerprints and time-tables. And most of all, the characters and their stories must seem real. The reader must come to understand the motivation behind the central criminal act.

It takes a special sort of mind to work out all those details and make a good story out of them, step by step, word piling upon word until all the parts of the puzzle fall into place and the solution is revealed.

Lauren Douglas weaves the details of the case of Tonia Konig and Val Frazier into a credible story in *The Always Anonymous Beast*. Tonia, an outspoken proponent of non-violence, is being



blackmailed, and forces herself to cooperate with this slime, this thug, this private investigator Caitlin Reece. Both Tonia and Val (a TV. anchorwoman) have a lot to lose if the love letters between them—now in the hands of the blackmailer—are made public, but Kate discovers that they are in even more danger than mere societal disapproval and its consequences could hold.

Although the plot sounds forced and contrived, Douglas brings to life what may seem to be stock

characters and she builds the tension of the mystery so that you'll find it difficult to put the book down. Caitlin Reece is a complicated character as well as a vehicle by which to move the plot, revealed through a Sgt. Friday-like journal, and the blackmailer's motivation and ultimate demise seem as real as the nitely news.

I look forward to reading more by Lauren Douglas and more about Caitlin Reece.

Taking Incest Out Of The Closet

Searching For Spring
by Patricia A. Murphy
Naia Press, Inc.; \$8.95

by Dianne Gregory

You've probably heard the one about the definition of a virgin in (fill in the blank) being a girl who can still outrun her brothers. Or maybe you've heard that little ditty that starts out: "Incest; I put by brother to the test." These little jokes are common enough, and they succeed in making normally reasonable people giggle behind their hands like school children, minimizing and distorting the realities of behavior that has much more to do with power than it has to do with sex.

With *Searching For Spring*, Patricia Murphy takes incest beyond the nasty little joke, the dirty family secret, and the psychiatric textbook into the realm of personal history.

Annie Malloy's father used to feel her up in front of the whole family as they watched TV. Growing up in the North Woods, Annie couldn't wait for it to be spring so she could break free for a time from the captivity imposed by the weather, so she could escape for a time from that deadly intimacy. And now that she is grown up, Annie Malloy must ex-

orcise the beast, must make her family see it so she can be free.

Through years of get-togethers with her sisters she worms out of them the extent of the incest in her family: that one of her brothers molested two of her younger sisters as well as his daughter; that her other brother exposes himself to children in a local park as the result of an incident in his own childhood. No one in the family is unscathed, even Annie's mother, who continues to deny Annie's stories at a terrible price. But through the process of group therapy, Annie comes out at the end of the tunnel a stronger and better person.

Annie's story is told in her own words through the vehicle of a journal. It is sometimes painful to read, of course, but the pure rage Annie is finally able to express is cleansing both for the writer and the reader.

This is no esoteric diatribe about the "tragedy of incest." It is a highly personal story about how one woman survives—to love and laugh once more.

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SEARCHING FOR SPRING
PATRICIA A. MURPHY



Pool

(Continued from page 51)

E.Z. stayed hot and Hennessy hardly had a chance, falling 3-0 to allow our representative a shot at the Championship.

San Diego's Kim Walker was undefeated and in the final match the tide turned against E.Z. as Walker pulled off the first

two wins. His scratch on the 8-ball in game #3 gave E.Z. new hope at getting into the match. Walker stepped to the table in game #4 and broke, sending the 8-ball rolling slowly towards the side pocket. It teetered and fell in among the cheers for the new WCC XVI Individuals' Champion.

Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information.

Quisbies

(Continued from page 24)

consciousness-expanding—excuse the expression! It just so happens that a virus destroyed all that. But I think I'm trying to say, don't throw out the baby with the bathwater. Don't think all of that was awful because it happened to be the vehicle through which we came face to face with mortality!

But for too many of the Quisbies, and for many of Moss' peers, the response to AIDS has been to withdraw, to stop creating—in Moss' words, "to sit there like Chekhov characters, waiting for the world to end." He adds, "When many of us are looking at newspaper reports that say we're going to die in five years, I don't know how easy it is to go on. But what I tried to demonstrate in the play is that

the creative act—creating anything, but hopefully something important to you—is perhaps the only thing you can do."

The creative act, that is to say, is an antidote to destruction. If there is no ultimate meaning in that, no answer to the "why" of AIDS, at least there is balance. As we tumble down the rabbit hole, not knowing what we may come to next, balance is a lovely thing to hope for.

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